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Page 13



THE RADISSON HOSTS ROOFTOP PARTY FOR MEETING PLANNERS

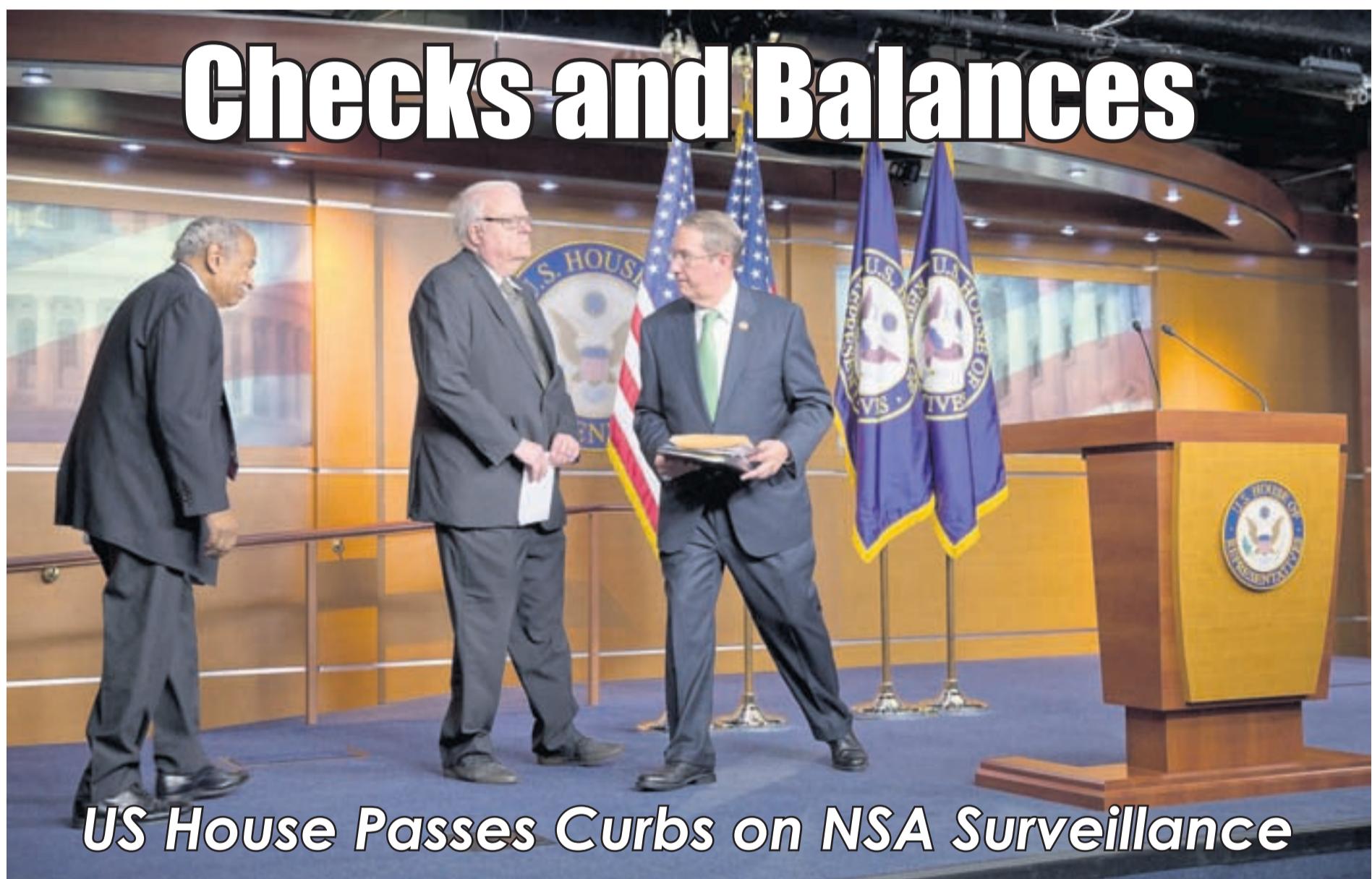
Page 14

Aruba TODAY

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Friday, May 23, 2014

Checks and Balances



US House Passes Curbs on NSA Surveillance

From left: Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) and Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) at a news conference where they discussed a house vote to restrict National Security Agency data collection, on Capitol Hill in Washington, May 22, 2014. The 303-to-121 vote sent an unambiguous signal that both parties are no longer comfortable with giving the NSA unfettered power to collect bulk surveillance data.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House moved the U.S. closer to ending the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' phone records Thursday, the most significant demonstration to date of leaker Edward Snowden's impact on the debate over privacy versus security.

But the final version of

the legislation, "watered down" in the words of one supporter, also showed the limits of that impact. The bill was severely weakened to mollify U.S. intelligence agencies, which insisted that the surveillance programs that shocked many Americans and angered some foreign leaders are a critical bulwark against terror plots.

The bill was approved 303

to 121, which means that most House members can now say they voted to end what many critics consider the most troubling practice Snowden disclosed — the collection and storage of U.S. calling data by the secretive intelligence agency. But almost no other major provision designed to restrict NSA surveillance — including limits on the secret court that grants war-

rant to search the data — survived the negotiations to get the bill to the House floor.

And even the prohibition on bulk collection of Americans' communications records has been called into question by some activists who say a last-minute change in wording diminished what was sold as a ban.

"People will say, 'We did

something, and isn't something enough,'" said Steven Aftergood, who tracks intelligence issues for the Federation of American Scientists. "But this bill doesn't fundamentally resolve the uncertainties that generated the whole controversy."

Continued on page 4

Biden:

Cyprus may become natural-gas hub

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS**Associated Press**

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday underscored Cyprus' potential to become a key provider of natural gas to Europe, saying that newly discovered offshore reserves of the fossil fuel represented a unique opportunity for the divided island nation.

the presidential palace.

Anastasiades said the gas deposits, which also have been found in Israeli waters, can offer "an alternative energy corridor leading to increased energy security."

The West wants to develop alternative suppliers of natural gas for Europe. Russia, the current top supplier, has threatened it could

coup by supporters of union with Greece.

For the past four decades the island has remained divided into a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north and an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south. Turkey, which doesn't recognize Cyprus' sovereignty, has voiced strong opposition to Greek Cypriot claims to the natural gas



US Vice President Joe Biden, center right, accompanied by Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades reviews an honor guard on his arrival at the Presidential Palace in the Cypriot capital Nicosia on Thursday, May 22, 2014. Biden is in Cyprus for an official, two-day visit to the ethnically divided island. Energy prospects in the east Mediterranean, the situation in Ukraine and talks to reunify Cyprus will top Biden's agenda, who is the most senior American official to visit the island in 52 years.

(AP Photo/Petros Karadjias)

"Cyprus is poised to become a key player ... transforming the eastern Mediterranean into a new global hub for natural gas," Biden said as he toasted his host, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades, at lunch in

cut supplies or raise prices to European customers as part of diplomatic rifts over Ukraine.

Biden pledged U.S. government support for efforts to reunify the island. In 1974, Turkey invaded after a

fields. It has repeatedly sent warship-escorted research vessels into Cypriot waters, where oil and gas companies are currently surveying, to underscore their own claim. □

Greek party vows to topple government

DEREK GATOPoulos**Associated Press**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An anti-bailout party that is leading Greek opinion polls ahead of this weekend's local government and European elections vowed Thursday to scrap international agreements that rescued the country's economy from bankruptcy at the cost of harsh austerity. Three opinion polls also published Thursday found that support for the left-

wing Syriza party was 2.5 percent to 3.2 percentage points ahead of the conservative New Democracy party, which leads Greece's coalition government. Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras declared at his party's main election rally in Athens that a Syriza victory in Sunday's twin polls would force the government to call early parliamentary elections. "We will build a road of social security, and scrap the bailout agree-

ments once and for all, along with the laws brought in to enforce them," he told thousands of supporters. The 2-year-old government has ruled out calling early elections regardless of Sunday's results.

But a heavy defeat could rattle parties in the coalition, which has a majority of just two seats in the 300-member parliament, after repeatedly expelling lawmakers who refused to back austerity measures. □

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Cayman convicts man of killing banker

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — A Cayman Islands jury convicted a local man of the 2008 slaying of a Swiss banker who was working in the British Caribbean territory, authorities said this week. The conviction of Chad Anglin came six years after the battered body of 40-year-old banker Frederic Bise was found in the trunk of a burned-out car. An autopsy determined he had been killed by blunt force trauma and strangulation. Anglin was initially arrested in 2008 but later released. Starting in 2011, detectives from a cold case unit re-examined the Swiss man's murder in the offshore finance center. Witnesses were interviewed and new lines of inquiry were pursued. Anglin was convicted of killing Bise on Tuesday and sentenced to life in prison. The other man will be tried later this year. □

Cuban blogger's news site obstructed

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's first major independent general-interest news outlet in five decades was blocked this week shortly after being launched by the country's best-known dissident blogger. More than an hour after its launch on Wednesday, the site www.14ymedio.com was directing readers inside Cuba to a page dedicated to scathing criticism of blogger Yoani Sanchez by well-known pro-government writers. Access outside Cuba appeared to be unimpeded. Sanchez accused the Cuban government of using its control of the country's Internet to divert readers to the critical site. "Bad strategy by the Cuban government to redirect our site from Cuba," she wrote on Twitter. "There's nothing more attractive than the forbidden." The government has made no official comment on Sanchez's site. □

Australians to open Guyana gold mine

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — An Australian company announced this week that it plans to open a large-scale gold mine in the South American country of Guyana this year. Perth-based Troy Resources Limited said it plans to produce an initial 90,000 ounces of gold annually. Mining Minister Robert Persaud said the company expects to invest about \$90 million to develop the mine and that it already has imported a \$5 million grinding mill. The mine would open in Guyana's northwest Cuyuni region and would employ about 500 workers. It would be the first major gold mine to open since Omai Gold Mines Limited ceased operations in 2005. The mine was once considered one of the largest open pit gold mines in the world, until it closed after waste caused an environmental disaster. □

Puerto Rican workers protest fiscal bill

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Dozens of government employees this week protested a bill that would impose austere fiscal measures to help strengthen the economy of the U.S. territory. The administrative offices of several agencies including the Electric Energy Authority remained closed as a result of the protest, which forced Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla to cancel his public activities for the day. Legislators are expected to debate the bill that calls for a reduction in government spending and changes in agreements with unions, among other things. Garcia has said the bill is needed to help Puerto Rico deal with the consequences of having its credit rating recently downgraded to junk status. The island is entering its eighth year in recession and battling a \$73 billion public debt. □

US declares UN approves sanctions on Boko Haram

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council officially declared Boko Haram a terrorist group linked to al-Qaida on Thursday and imposed sanctions against the Islamist extremists who have carried out a wave of deadly attacks and the recent abduction of nearly 300 schoolgirls in Nigeria.

U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power welcomed the council's action, calling it "an important step in support of the government of Nigeria's efforts to defeat Boko Haram and hold its murderous leadership accountable for atrocities."

Nigeria, which is serving a two-year term on the council, asked the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against al-Qaida to add Boko Haram to the list of al-Qaida-linked organizations subject to an arms embargo and asset freeze.

The 14 other council members had until 3 p.m. EDT (1900 GMT) on Thursday to object and none did.

Australia's U.N. Ambassador Gary Quinlan, who chairs the al-Qaida sanctions committee, told reporters that Boko Haram is now on the sanctions list.

By adding the group, Power said, "the Security Council has helped to close off important avenues of funding ... and weapons to Boko Haram, and shown global unity against their savage actions."

Quinlan said there's "very clear evidence" that Boko Haram members have trained with al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, particularly in developing improvised explosive devices — "one of the main weapons of modern-day terrorism and particularly al-Qaida." There is also evidence that a significant number of Boko Haram members have fought alongside al-Qaida affiliates in Mali, he said.

Quinlan said Boko Haram's current leader, Abubakar Shekau, also made "very, very strong statements of ... terrorist solidarity with al-Qaida in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia" and other places in November 2012. Before Boko Haram's addition, the al-Qaida sanctions list included 62 entities and groups, and 213 individuals who are also subject to travel bans.

Quinlan said it's hard to say what the practical impact of sanctions against Boko Haram will be.

One possible problem in tracking their finances, he said, is that large parts of the group work in the jungle and probably use cash rather than "substantial or sophisticated financial arrangements for banking — but you never know." He urged all 193 U.N. member states to focus on Boko Haram as a violent al-Qaida related group, ensure that it is included in any national terrorist lists, and check their own country's financial and arms dealings to ensure that the organization isn't getting money or weapons.

Nigeria's U.N. Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu said Wednesday "the important thing is to attack the problem, and that is terrorism."

Boko Haram's 5-year-old Islamic uprising has claimed the lives of thousands of Muslims and Christians, including more than 1,500 people killed in attacks so far this year.

The group, whose name means "Western education is forbidden," has tried to root out Western influence by targeting schools, churches, mosques, government buildings and security forces. The homegrown terror group was largely contained to the northern part of Nigeria before expanding its reach with the help of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the terrorist network's affiliate in West Africa. □

Promoting tourism: Obama travels through baseball's past

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2014 New York Times

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. —

There are a few perks of office for any U.S. president. And for President Barack Obama, his broad smile Thursday suggested that this was one of them.

As the first sitting president to visit the National Base-

Taft threw out as the first pitch on opening day in 1910, Obama pretended to hurl the ball in the direction of the small gaggle of reporters gathered around him, getting some giggles and causing a few to flinch. A few minutes later, Obama picked up a black mitt. "Joe DiMaggio's glove," he

they stay in hotels, they eat in restaurants and that means that, for upstate New York, the Baseball Hall of Fame is an economic engine."

The president said the government would take steps to boost tourism, including making improvements at airports to attract interna-



President Barack Obama tries on a Chicago White Sox World Series ring as he tours the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., May 22, 2014. Obama spoke at the museum about travel and tourism in the United States.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

ball Hall of Fame and Museum here, Obama had an extra bounce in his step as he quickly took in some of the artifacts, including a few from his favorite team, the Chicago White Sox.

"Oh, it fits!" Obama said, as he slipped a 2005 White Sox World Series ring onto his right pinkie.

Holding the baseball that President William Howard

said.

"How about that?"

Officially, the president stopped at the Hall of Fame to promote international tourism and to make the point that such museums help create jobs.

"Tourism translates into jobs, and it translates into economic growth," Obama said in brief remarks after a quick tour. "They rent cars,

tional tourists.

"We want to bring in more visitors faster," he said. "They can get to Cooperstown faster. They can see Babe Ruth's bat faster."

He also took the opportunity to chide Republicans in Congress for not doing more to create jobs - commentary he rarely misses a chance to make when he is on the road. □

Forecasters: Slow Atlantic hurricane season predicted

MEGHAN BARR

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A slower-than-usual Atlantic hurricane season is expected this year because of an expected El Niño, U.S. federal forecasters said Thursday.

The El Niño, which warms part of the Pacific every few years and changes rain and temperature patterns around the world, will likely reduce the number and intensity of tropical

storms and hurricanes, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in New York City.

Cooler temperatures on the surface of the Atlantic Ocean compared with recent years will also lower the probability of hurricane formation.

Officials expect about eight to 13 named tropical storms and three to six hurricanes. Just one or two major hurricanes with winds

over 110 mph (177 kph) are forecast.

The six-month storm season begins June 1.

Forecasters got it wrong last year when they predicted an unusually busy hurricane season. There were just 13 named storms and two hurricanes, Umberto and Ingrid, both of which were Category 1, the lowest on the scale that measures hurricanes by wind speed. □

US House passes curbs on NSA surveillance

Continued from Front

Though some privacy activists continued to back the bill, others withdrew support, as did technology companies such as Google and Facebook.

Michigan Rep. Mike Rogers, the Republican Intelligence Committee chairman, said, "I believe this is a workable compromise that protects the core function of a counterterrorism program we know has saved lives around the world."

The measure now heads to the Senate, where Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters Thursday that "we must do something."

The USA Freedom Act would codify a proposal made in January by President Barack Obama, who said he wanted to end the NSA's practice of collecting and storing the "to and from" records of nearly

every American landline telephone call under a program that searched the data for connections to terrorist plots abroad.

The phone records program was revealed though the leaks last year by Snowden, who used his job as a computer network administrator to remove tens of thousands of secret documents from an NSA facility in Hawaii. Snowden fled first to China, then Russia where he is avoiding an extradition order to face criminal charges for revealing classified information.

The phone companies create and store those billing records, and the legislation still would give the NSA authority to request batches of data from the companies to search in terrorism investigations in response to a judicial order. The USA Freedom Act started its life as the idea of those who wanted to clamp down on NSA surveillance, but it was

"watered down," as Rep. Jan Schakowsky, a Democrat, acknowledged, shedding a series of provisions favored by civil liberties activists. Some activists continued to back the bill, including the ACLU, whose Washington legislative director, Laura Murphy, called it an imperfect but "unambiguous statement of congressional intent to rein in the out-of-control NSA."

Other privacy groups withdrew their support, as did technology companies such as Google and Facebook. They said they were most concerned with a last-minute definition change that they fear will allow the government to collect huge volumes of records — including, for example, records of all the phone calls made from a particular U.S. city during a certain period, or all the internet data associated with a particular commercial router. □



House Speaker John Boehner takes questions from reporters at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, May 22, 2014. The House on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to rein in the National Security Agency's sweeping collection of telephone records. "People are a lot more comfortable with a government that is not storing all this metadata," Boehner said while praising the bill.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Mother convinced kidnapped woman to go to police

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TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California (AP)

— A woman who says she was kidnapped a decade ago by her mother's boyfriend lived a seemingly ordinary life with her alleged captor year after year, but was too scared to go to authorities until she recently reunited with her mother, police said Thursday.

The woman, who disappeared when she was 15, eventually married the man and started a family with him.

Neighbors said she worked for a nearby janitorial service, took Zumba classes and went on trips to the beach and Disneyland. Prosecutors in California on Thursday filed five felony charges against the alleged abductor, Isidro Garcia, including rape and kidnapping to commit a sexual offense.

He did not enter a plea, and his arraignment was continued until June 9. He was jailed on \$1 million bail. Garcia's attorney said the woman's claims of physical and sexual abuse are

lies made up because the couple is separating. Neighbors in a working-class city south of Los Angeles described an out-

could be true — Garcia could have been a doting husband who controlled his wife without physically restraining her through

an went two blocks from her apartment complex to the police department in Bell Gardens and accused Garcia of domestic violence.

During that conversation, officers learned of her connection to a 2004 missing-persons case in Santa Ana, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) away.

Santa Ana police interviewed both Garcia and the woman and concluded that the husband had been sexually abusing her a decade ago and kidnapped her after a fight with her mother, who was his girlfriend at the time.

After holding her captive, Garcia moved at least four times and gave her multiple fake identities to hide

her from family and authorities, Santa Ana Police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said.

The woman, who police did not identify, told investigators she often thought about escaping but fear paralyzed her.

She came to the United States illegally in 2004 and said Garcia used that to isolate her, telling her that her mother had given up searching and that if she contacted authorities, she would be deported.

Police said Garcia forced the woman to marry in 2007 and fathered a daughter, now 3, with her.

In April, the woman got in touch with her mother after finding her sister on Facebook to wish her a happy birthday, according to Bertagna. □



Neighbor Maria Sanchez holds a Jan. 29, 2012 photo of her neighbor Isidro Garcia at his daughter's third birthday at Bell Gardens church, while talking to the media in Bell Gardens, Calif. Garcia allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl in Santa Ana in 2004 then repeatedly physically and sexually assaulted her over the course of 10 years.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

wardly happy family, while authorities and psychologists cautioned that both

years of abuse. The case began to emerge Monday, when the wom-

McDonald's CEO defends company at meeting

CANDICE

CHOI

TAMMY WEBBER

Associated Press

OAK BROOK, Illinois (AP)

— McDonald's CEO Don Thompson sought to address a growing chorus of critics on issues including worker pay and marketing to children at its annual meeting Thursday.

As hundreds of protesters chanted for higher wages outside, Thompson told the audience in the building that the company has a heritage of providing job opportunities that lead to "real careers."

"We believe we pay fair and competitive wages," Thompson said.

A day earlier, McDonald's closed one of its buildings in Oak Brook, Illinois, where protesters had planned to demonstrate over the low wages paid to its workers. Organizers then targeted another site on the company's headquarters in

suburban Chicago, and police say 138 were arrested for refusing to leave the property.

As in years past, McDonald's marketing to tactics to children was also brought up by speakers. One mother from Kentucky, Casey Hinds, said the company's clown mascot, Ronald McDonald, was "the Joe Camel of fast food."

Thompson said McDonald's wasn't predatory and that Ronald McDonald was about letting kids have fun. He noted that his children ate the chain's food and

turned out "quite healthy," with his daughter even becoming a track star.

"We are people. We do have values at McDonald's. We are parents," he said.

Although many fast-food chains engage in similar practices, McDonald's Corp. is a frequent target for critics because of its high profile. The criticism is becoming a more pressing issue for the world's biggest hamburger chain at a time when it is fighting to boost weak sales amid heightened competition. □

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US seeks disclosure of all fees fliers will face

MATTHEW L. WALD

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Airlines and travel agents will be required to list fees for services like checked bags, carry-ons and seat reservations so that travelers can compare fares more easily under a proposal announced by the Transportation Department this week.

The proposal would also broaden the definition of "ticket agent" so that travel websites like Kayak and Expedia, which help consumers compare ticket prices but do not sell the tickets themselves, would be subject to the same disclosure rules.

"Knowledge is power, and our latest proposal helps ensure consumers have clear and accurate information," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement.

Add-on fees for services that were once bundled into the price of a ticket have surged in recent years, and today they make up about 18 percent of a typical airline's revenue, said Dean E. Headley,



A Spirit Airlines plane on the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida. A new rule proposed by the Transportation Department would force airlines and travel agents to list fees for services like checked bags, carry-ons and seat reservations so that travelers can compare fares more easily.

(Moris Moreno/The New York Times)

an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State University.

Almost all the major airlines now charge for checked bags, with Southwest being the exception.

And some airlines take it further, with Spirit Airlines charging for carry-on bags, among a host of other fees.

But consumers purchasing a ticket on fare comparison websites do not learn of these fees until they have been steered to an airline's site to buy the ticket. And even then they must "review lengthy and complex charts to determine the exact fee that

they would be charged for their baggage," the department said.

The proposal, which will be open for public comment for 90 days, would require airlines and their agents to disclose the costs of the first two checked bags, carry-on bags and advance seat reservations in the first screen along with the base airfare.

Some travel experts predicted that rules would be hard to put into practice.

"Would it be nice for people to know what the full cost of a travel experience might be?" said Headley, a co-author of an annual report on airline service quality. "Probably it would be better," he said, adding that the range of options was so large that listing them was "fraught with dilemma for the airline and customers."

Airlines expressed concern over the proposed rules, saying they would be intrusive and would cost them money, leading to higher fares.

"This proposal overreaches and limits how free markets work and will have negative consequences," Airlines for America, the trade group of the big carriers, said in a statement.

"The government does not prescriptively tell other industries - hotels, computer makers, rental car companies - how they should sell their products," the group added. "We believe consumers are best served when the companies they do business with are able to tailor products and services to their customers."

Spirit Airlines said in a statement: "Spirit already shows all the costs for all options in the booking process. We agree that full transparency to customers from all airlines, including the disclosure of mandated taxes and airport charges, is the right thing to do."

The Transportation Department said that if all of its proposed changes were enacted, the cost would be \$80.5 million over 10 years. □

US unemployment aid applications rise

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits jumped last week, but remained at a low level that suggests hiring should remain steady.

Applications rose 28,000 to a seasonally adjusted 326,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The increase comes after applications fell to their lowest level since May 2007 two weeks ago.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, dipped 1,000 to 322,500. The average reached a seven-year low of 312,000 last month. Applications are a proxy for layoffs, so the low levels suggest companies are cutting few jobs.

The number of people receiving benefits fell to 2.65 million, the fewest since Dec. 1, 2007, when the recession began.

"Don't be disappointed,"



Mike Zulauf, 2008 graduate of the Air Force Academy, shakes hands with Sandra Modena, Sales Manager at Trillium Staffing, at the annual veterans job fair aboard the LST in downtown Muskegon Mich. The Labor Department reported a jump in the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week on Thursday, May 22, 2014.

(AP Photo/Madelyn Hastings)

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a research note. "The trend is downwards, signaling faster payroll growth."

The recent decline in firings has been accompanied by healthier hiring. Employers are adding more jobs, though unemployment

remains at historically high levels.

The economy gained 288,000 jobs in April, the most in 2 ½ years, and the unemployment rate plunged to 6.3 percent from 6.7 percent. But the rate drop occurred because fewer people looked for work. □

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US Financial Front:

Rent or Buy? Calculus shifting as prices bubble up

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Billy Gasparino and Jenna Dillon-Gasparino were savvy enough to wait out the housing boom of a decade ago as renters. Not until 2010, well into the bust, did they buy a house in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles, less than a

prices have risen enough that buying is no longer the bargain it looked to be a few years ago. (BEGIN OPTIONAL TRIM.) "A lot of these coastal markets look overvalued compared to rents," said Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "In

levels, even more if one accounts for inflation. But across much of California and the Northeast, prices are now high enough that the costs of owning a home - property taxes, repairs, fees to real estate agents and mortgage interest - may outweigh the

tional economy but do not discriminate based on geography. Even as San Francisco's housing market is at risk of overheating, buyers there get the same ultralow mortgage rates engineered by the

Federal Reserve as homebuyers in depressed Detroit or Cleveland do. And the new booms are taking place in markets where restrictions on building hinder developers from responding to rising demand. □



Jenna Dillon-Gasparino, her son, William, and Rocky the dog in their house, which is on the market for sharply more than the family bought it for, just four years ago, in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles, May 19, 2014. In some markets, buying a house again looks like a perilous investment.

(J. Emilio Flores/The New York Times)

mile from the beach, for \$810,000. Only four years later, the couple see new signs of excess in the housing market and have decided to go back to renting. They are close to a deal to sell their house - for \$1.35 million, a 67 percent gain.

"It just seems like the housing market came back so strongly, so fast, that maybe there's a little bit of a bubble there," said Gasparino, 37, an executive with the San Diego Padres. Their decision reflects a new reality in many of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. An analysis by The New York Times finds that in the country's most expensive places, including New York, the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, buying a home again looks like a perilous investment, based on the relationship between their prices and rents or incomes.

And in a longer list of areas, including Boston, Miami and Washington,

these markets, it seems generally more attractive to rent than to buy, even as the national market is broadly well balanced." For example, Venice, where the Gasparinos are selling their house, has benefited from an influx of tech industry, including from the opening of Google's Los Angeles office there in 2011.

"You have engineers, visual effects artists, people making 2, 3, 400 thousand dollars a year coming in," said Tami Pardee, principal of Pardee Properties real estate brokerage in Venice. "The problem I'm having is inventory. There isn't enough of it."

Thanks to low interest rates and home prices that remain 13 percent below their 2006 peak nationally, buying continues to look like a good deal in much of the country. In the once-frothy markets of Phoenix, Las Vegas and Orlando, Florida, for example, the typical home price is still 30-40 percent below 2006

financial benefits, including the tax break. It is the latest change in a yo-yo pattern over the last decade. From 2004 to 2006, the math overwhelmingly favored renting rather than buying across most of the country, even as many Americans mistakenly decided that home prices could never fall.

From 2009 to 2011, buying was an extraordinary deal in most of the country. Even the markets that have experienced huge price increases are far from the clear-cut bubble conditions of the mid-2000s, but they are inching closer with every bidding war.

The potentially overvalued markets are the result of three forces. They are taking place in local economies that suffered only minimally during the recession that began in 2008 and have experienced strong job growth since then. They are fueled further by the low-interest-rate policies that are aimed at bolstering the overall na-

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Media companies join to extend brands of YouTube stars

BROOKS BARNES

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LOS ANGELES - Simon & Schuster is making a big bet on YouTube stars, an undertaking that could either open up a blockbuster new publishing market or reveal the limitations of Internet celebrity.

In the latest mashup of old and new media, a division of Simon & Schuster, the Atria Publishing Group, has teamed with Hollywood's United Talent Agency to create a new imprint to publish books by Internet entertainers. Five deals have already been made with YouTube stars like Shane Dawson and Justine Ezarik.

Keywords Press, as the new endeavor is called, aims to release six to 10 titles annually, both in print and digital formats, ranging from "serious to comedic, fiction to nonfiction, practical advice to personal memoir," said Judith Curr, president and publisher of Atria.

"Not to be too grand about it, but books are coming to YouTube for the first time," she said. "It gives us access to a whole new talent pool."

The deal represents an acknowledgment by traditional media companies that YouTube celebrities are more than just niche entertainers with quirky appeal, and can be marketed to a broader audience. For the video stars, a publishing platform adds a touch of gravitas, not to mention the financing that comes with it.

In addition to Dawson and Ezarik, who is better known as iJustine, Keywords Press has made deals with Connor Franta, Joey Graceffa and Shay Butler, the creator of "The ShayTards." Together, the five entertain-

ers have about 20 million YouTube subscribers and have posted videos generating 2 billion views. After successfully trawling the blogosphere for new authors, the big publishing houses - obsessed with finding writers with a built-in audience and encourag-

hum early results. For United Talent, which operates a respected and aggressive digital division, Keywords Press is about finding new ways to make money by helping YouTube clients like Dawson and Ezarik expand their brands. For instance,

gree that my fans expect and I want."

To that end, most Keywords books will be crowd-sourced, meaning that Dawson and his fellow authors will directly involve their followers in storytelling decisions from the earliest stages. That is a big change

line publishers to the work practices of the YouTube generation.

"I've always wanted to write a book, but the proposal process is kind of crazy," said Ezarik, who has parlayed YouTube stardom into an acting, endorsement and fashion career.

"I would say, 'Why can't I just do it?' That's what we are used to doing online." What will Ezarik's book be about? The details are still fuzzy.

"I have so many random, behind-the-scenes stories to tell, and I really want it to be inspirational," she said. "But I also want to know what my fans want my book to be like."

With any luck, she added, "the book will be successful, and we can turn it into a movie or a TV series."

Atria, whose traditional authors include Brad Thor ("The Last Patriot") and Rhonda Byrne ("The Secret"), and United Talent, whose movie star clients include Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp, provided little information about the Keywords business model. It involves an advance payment, but authors are meant to share in profits to a larger degree than is typical. Keywords authors do not necessarily need to be United Talent clients.

Keywords Press is only one example of increased digital innovation at United Talent and Simon & Schuster, which is owned by the CBS Corp.

United Talent, for instance, helped incubate AwesomenessTV, a fast-growing YouTube empire focused on preteenage girls. DreamWorks Animation bought Awesomeness last year in a deal valued up to \$117 million and brokered by the agency. □



Judith Curr, president of Atria Publishing Group, a division of Simon and Schuster, with a tablet showing its new imprint called Keywords Press, in New York, May 20, 2014. The partnership with United Talent Agency, which plans to release titles both digitally and in print that feature YouTube stars, could either open up a blockbuster new publishing market or reveal the limitations of Internet celebrity.

(Nancy Borowick/The New York Times)

ing reading among young consumers - are turning to Google's YouTube and Twitter's Vine.

But this is still untested ground: Although video stars have shown that they can direct their fans to TV, print is an entirely different medium.

Early efforts have largely been disappointing. A recent cookbook from the creators of "Epic Meal Time," a YouTube extreme cooking show, is a prominent example. It was published in March by Gallery Books, another division of Simon & Schuster, to ho-

Dawson, known for comedic oversharing that leans toward vulgarity, has successfully released music on iTunes, sold a comedy pilot to NBC and is working on a movie. Publishing a book seemed like a natural extension.

"I've almost done books before, quite a few times, actually, but there were always so many hoops to jump through, and it always all centered on my single best idea," Dawson said. "It always ended up not being very interesting because it didn't allow for fan interaction to the de-

from the traditional book publishing model, which is centered on formal written proposals.

Keywords also aims to get books into the marketplace much faster than a traditional imprint could.

"There wasn't a publishing apparatus out there that could really take advantage of the unique nature of online stars and their relationship with fans," said Brent Weinstein, head of United Talent's digital division. "So we decided to go out and create one."

The upshot: Keywords represents a bending by old-

Deadliest day for Ukraine troops: 16 slain in raid

IVAN SEKRETADEV

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

BLAHODATNE, Ukraine (AP)

In the deadliest raid yet on Ukrainian troops, pro-Russia insurgents attacked a military checkpoint Thursday, killing 16 soldiers, and the interim prime minister accused Moscow of trying to disrupt the upcoming election for a new president to lead the divided country out of its crisis.

A rebel commander said one of his fighters also died in the raid in eastern Ukraine, which left a gruesome scene of charred military vehicles and scorched bodies near the town of Volnovakha, 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of the city of Donetsk.

Witnesses, including a medical worker, said more than 30 Ukrainian troops were wounded, with some in grave condition. Fighting also raged in at least two other villages.

The armed uprising and the government's offensive to put it down have cast a shadow over Sunday's election, with Kiev acknowledging it will be impossible to hold the vote



Bodies covered with blankets lie in a field near the village of Blahodatne, eastern Ukraine, on Thursday, May 22, 2014, as a Ukrainian soldier smokes next to his armored infantry vehicle. At least 11 Ukrainian troops were killed and about 30 others were wounded when Pro-Russians attacked a military checkpoint, the deadliest raid in the weeks of fighting in eastern Ukraine. Three charred Ukrainian armored infantry vehicles, their turrets blown away by powerful explosions, and several burned vehicles stood at the site of the combat.

in some areas. In the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where separatists have declared independence and pledged to derail the vote, election workers reported threats and interference from gunmen. Interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk accused

Russia of escalating the conflict and trying to disrupt the election. In a post on Facebook, he called for an urgent session of the U.N. Security Council and said Ukraine would present evidence of Mos-

cow's involvement. In the attack on the checkpoint, residents said the rebels arrived in an armored bank truck, which the unsuspecting Ukrainian soldiers waved through. The rebels opened fire

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, acting President Oleksandr Turchynov said. The Donetsk regional administration and a Health Ministry official said 16 soldiers were killed.

Associated Press journalists saw 11 dead soldiers in the field near the village of Blahodatne, outside Volnovakha.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said the attackers hit an ammunition section in one of the military vehicles, which exploded in a fireball.

Three blackened armored infantry vehicles, their turrets blown away, and several burned trucks stood at the site. Bodies apparently burned by the explosion and fire were scattered nearby.

A leading rebel commander claimed responsibility for the raid. In the courtyard of the occupied police headquarters of the town of Horlivka, he displayed seized Ukrainian weapons and the passports of what he said were two of the dead soldiers. □

Belfast police to sue for all Boston College tapes

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Northern Ireland police announced Thursday they will sue to obtain all of the audio-taped interviews of former militants who described their wartime careers to a Boston College oral history project, a move designed to reopen scores of "cold case" murder investigations in the British territory.

Police last year successfully sued Boston College to obtain 11 interviews of Irish Republican Army veterans discussing the 1972 abduction, killing and secret burial of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old Belfast widowed mother of 10.

Those tapes were used as a primary basis for arresting Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who had been

accused by some IRA interviewees of being the Belfast IRA commander at the time who ordered McConville's slaying. Adams denied the accusations and was released without charge May 4, although police did send an evidence file to British state prosecutors for potential charges later.

Now, the Police Service of Northern Ireland says it wants the entire audio archive, including the accounts of former Ulster Volunteer Force members involved in the slayings of Catholic civilians. In a statement it said Serious Crime Branch detectives were doing this because of the police's "statutory duty to investigate fully all matters of serious crime, including murder." □



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Thai Army declares coup, citing need to 'reform'

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BANGKOK - The Thai military seized control of the country Thursday in a coup, the culmination of months of maneuvering by the Bangkok establishment to sideline the populist movement founded by a billionaire tycoon that has won every national election since 2001.

It was the second time in a decade that the army has overthrown an elected government and at least the 12th military coup since Thailand abandoned the absolute monarchy in 1932. The takeover came two days after the military declared martial law.

In a series of announcements Thursday, the military declared the constitution invalid, dissolved the Cabinet, banned gatherings of more than five people, imposed a curfew and shut schools. But it said the courts would continue operating, as would the Senate, half of whose members are appointed and are friendly to the Bangkok elite. Television stations were ordered to replace



A Thai soldier stands guard in front of the Democracy Monument after the coup Thursday, May 22, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. Thailand's military seized power Thursday in a bloodless coup, dissolving the government, suspending the constitution and dispersing groups of protesters from both sides of the country's political divide who had gathered in Bangkok and raised fears of a violent showdown.

(AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

their regular programming with messages from the military and patriotic songs. The military began the day by hosting rival political leaders for what was billed as a second round of talks on how to resolve the country's political dead-

lock. After several hours, however, soldiers detained the participants, including the heads of the country's two largest political parties and Cabinet ministers. The head of the army, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, then announced the coup on

national television, saying it was "necessary to seize power." Prayuth said the coup was conducted "in order to bring the situation back to normal quickly" and to "reform the political structure, the economy and the society." □

Syrian tanks roll into Aleppo prison grounds

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian tanks backed by massive air power rolled into the grounds of a sprawling prison in Aleppo on Thursday, breaking a yearlong rebel

siege and allowing President Bashar Assad's forces to close in on a nearby rebel command center. State TV showed troops celebrating inside the prison complex, showcasing a rare government triumph in

the mostly rebel-held north less than two weeks before President Bashar Assad's expected re-election. The Syrian army has made gains around the capital, Damascus, seat of Assad's power, and in the center of the country. It has now

turned its attention to the north and rebel-held parts of the south, where it seeks to advance ahead of the June 3 vote dismissed by Western powers as a sham. A monumental army push would be needed to take Aleppo, Syria's largest city, and that is very unlikely to happen in the next few weeks. But the army advances are a sign that the momentum in the city may be shifting decisively in favor of the government.

The reward is two-fold for Assad: The more territory he can claw back, the more places he can potentially hold balloting; Syrian officials have said voting will

take place only in government-controlled territory. Military gains in Aleppo will also give Assad more reason to claim he is winning the war and portray himself as the only one capable of restoring security to the country.

The move on the Aleppo prison came a few hours before Russia and China vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution referring the Syrian crisis to the International Criminal Court for investigation of possible war crimes. It was the fourth time the two countries have used their veto power as permanent council members to deflect action against Assad's government.

Aleppo, once Syria's prized commercial center, has been carved into rebel- and government-controlled areas since opposition fighters launched an offensive in mid-2012. □

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Bloomberg wins \$1 million prize, and gives it back

JODI RUDOREN

© 2014 New York Times

JERUSALEM - What does one of the world's richest people do when awarded a \$1 million prize? He gives it back. Michael R. Bloomberg, the billionaire businessman who took a token \$1-a-year salary during three terms as mayor of New York, is receiving the first-ever Genesis Prize, a broadly and vaguely defined honor that has something to do with "Jewish values." The Genesis Prize Foundation announced Thursday that Bloomberg was investing his windfall into a new broadly and vaguely defined competition. Genesis will run for young "change agents" who are "guided by Jewish values."

"The new competition will strive to find - and fund - the next big idea that would measurably change the world," the foundation said in a news release issued before a glitz evening award ceremony emceed by another very rich man who recently left a high-profile job, comedian Jay Leno.

Bloomberg, 72, who left City Hall at the end of 2013 and now focuses mainly on philanthropy, visited Israel frequently while in office and has donated millions of dollars to build a hospital wing named for his mother and an ambulance center named for his father here in Jerusalem.

Leno, 64, the longtime host of the "Tonight Show" on NBC, is not Jewish and had never been to Israel before this week, though he has spoken out against the growing boycott movement against it. He met Tuesday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and told reporters: "I love Israel; that's why I'm here."

Wayne Firestone, president of the Genesis Prize Foundation, said that selecting Leno was mainly to lend the ceremony high-wattage celebrity. □



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AP: Mexico City residents battle police for water

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A confrontation between 1,500 police and residents of a village on Mexico City's western outskirts left more than 100 police injured in a battle over a water spring. Three police remained in intensive care Thursday, the city government said, and five people were under arrest.

It was the latest in a series of clashes over increasingly scarce water in the city of 9 million people, which must draw much of its supply from surrounding states. The city grew so fast between the 1940s and the 1990s that once-independent villages like San Bartolo Ameyalco were swallowed up by the sprawl.

The centuries-old village has a natural water spring which it takes a great deal of pride in.

But Mexico City officials wanted to extend the municipal water system into the village, purportedly to supply underserved areas there.

But many residents suspect the city wants take their spring water to supply the explosive growth of apartment blocks, offices and shopping centers that have sprouted in the upscale developments nearby.

Residents had managed to block the city's plan for a long time.

"This community has been deeply linked to water ever since it began," community activists wrote in a description of their town, whose name, Ameyalco, means "place where water springs forth" in the Nahuatl Indian language. □

Colombia's presidential race engulfed by scandal

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Accusations of bribes from drug traffickers, spying and email hacking have turned Colombia's presidential election into an ugly slugfest that has further polarized a country

and his hand-picked heir, former finance chief Oscar Ivan Zuluaga. Polls say the two are running neck and neck, well ahead of three other candidates but with neither likely to garner the 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff. Zuluaga's conservative

from the nation's biggest drug traffickers to negotiate their surrender. The information was based on three-year-old, leaked testimony to Colombian prosecutors from a drug cartel boss jailed in the U.S. Rendon, a Venezuelan native, quickly resigned after



Soldiers patrol the streets of La Candelaria neighborhood in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, May 21, 2014. The South American country is just days away from their May 25th presidential election. Accusations of bribes from drug traffickers, spying and email hacking have turned Colombia's presidential election into an ugly slugfest that has further polarized a country trying to emerge from its violent past.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

trying to emerge from its violent past.

The mudslinging has distracted attention from talks with the country's main rebel group to end the country's half-century internal conflict, which had been expected to be a key issue going into Sunday's election.

Much of the blame for the dirty campaigning falls on two former allies whose public feuding has divided Colombia the past four years: President Juan Manuel Santos and his still-powerful predecessor, Alvaro Uribe.

Despite presiding over what may be South America's best-performing economy, Santos is struggling amid relentless attacks by Uribe

Democratic Center movement has lambasted Santos for what it calls his softness in 18-month-old negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC. Zuluaga has threatened to end the talks in Cuba if he is elected, saying he will demand the rebels prove their commitment to peace by declaring a permanent ceasefire within a week.

But those policy differences have taken a backseat to endless bickering and near-daily bombshells that have Colombians shaking their heads in disgust.

It began with media reports that Santos' campaign manager, J.J. Rendón, received \$12 million

acknowledging that he interceded in the case, although he denied taking any money.

Two days later, authorities arrested a computer expert who worked for Zuluaga's campaign, accusing him of hacking into the emails of FARC negotiators and even Santos. Zuluaga denounced the arrest as a ploy to derail his candidacy.

Uribe, without presenting any evidence, then accused Rendón of funneling \$2 million from the alleged drug-dealer payments to Santos' 2010 campaign.

The waters were muddied even more with the appearance last weekend of a video shot clandestinely from a cellphone in which

Zuluaga listens attentively as the suspected hacker outlines a strategy to use intelligence gathered illegally to try to sabotage support for the peace talks. And many Colombians, even those who support Santos, were asking whether the president was playing electoral politics with the peace process when he announced a landmark agreement with the FARC on May 17 to jointly combat illicit drugs. Many observers say he should have put the talks on hold until elections had passed.

Both Zuluaga and Santos "are trying to win at any cost," said Marta Lucia Ramirez, a former Uribe defense minister and presidential candidate who was a distant third in the latest Invamer-Gallup poll. "That's what's causing damage to the country, that's what destroying Colombians' trust in their political leaders and institutions."

Vicente Torrijos, a political analyst at Bogota's Rosario University, said the onslaught of accusations was unlikely to tilt the election's outcome.

"The society is so saturated with scandal that it produces the paradoxical effect of reinforcing voter preferences," he said.

Santos, the scion of one of Colombia's richest families, inspires little enthusiasm among voters, especially among the poor who have benefited less from the economic boom. And Zuluaga is widely viewed as Uribe's subordinate. Yet none of their challengers appear to have been able to turn that to their advantage, perhaps because the mainstream media have focused on the two better-funded campaigns. □

Painful and rapid spread of new virus in Caribbean

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL, Dominican Republic (AP) —

They suffer searing headaches, a burning fever and so much pain in their joints they can barely walk or use their hands. It's like having a terrible flu combined with an abrupt case of arthritis.

Hospitals and clinics throughout the Caribbean are seeing thousands of people with the same symptoms, victims of a virus with a long and unfamiliar name that has been spread rapidly by mosquitoes across the islands after the first locally transmitted case was confirmed in December.

"You feel it in your bones, your fingers and your hands. It's like everything is coming apart," said 34-year-old Sahira Francisco as she and her daughter waited for treatment at a hospital in San Cristobal, a town in the southern Dominican Republic that has seen a surge of the cases in recent days.

The virus is chikungunya, derived from an African word that loosely translates

as "contorted with pain." People encountering it in the Caribbean for the first time say the description is fitting. While the virus is rarely fatal it is extremely debilitating.

"It is terrible, I have never



Five-year-old Karla Sepulveda, who suffers chikungunya fever symptoms, waits with her grandmother for treatment in the pediatric area of a public hospital in the coastal town of Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. The mosquito-born virus, common in Africa and Asia, arrived to the Caribbean in late 2013 and has affected more than 10,000 people in the Dominican Republic.

(AP Photo/Ezequiel Abiu Lopez)

in my life gotten such an illness," said Maria Norde, a 66-year-old woman confined to bed at her home on the lush eastern Caribbean island of Dominica. "All my joints are in pain."

an infected air traveler. Health officials are now working feverishly to educate the public about the illness, knock down the mosquito population, and deal with an onslaught of

Outbreaks of the virus have long made people miserable in Africa and Asia. But it is new to the Caribbean, with the first locally transmitted case documented in December in French St. Martin, likely brought in by

cases.

Authorities are attempting to control mosquitoes throughout the Caribbean, from dense urban neighborhoods to beach resorts. There have been no confirmed cases of local transmission of chikungunya on the U.S. mainland, but experts say the high number of travelers to the region means that could change as early as this summer.

So far, there are no signs the virus is keeping visitors away though some Caribbean officials warn it might if it is not controlled. "We need to come together and deal with this disease," said Dominica Tourism Minister Ian Douglas.

One thing is certain: The virus has found fertile ground in the Caribbean. The Pan American Health Organization reports more than 55,000 suspected and confirmed cases since December throughout the islands. It has also reached French Guiana, the first confirmed transmission on the South American mainland. The Pan American Health Organization says seven people in the Caribbean with chikungunya have

died during the outbreak but they had underlying health issues that likely contributed to their death. "It's building up like a snowball because of the constant movement of people," said Jacqueline Medina, a specialist at the Instituto Technologico university in the Dominican Republic, where some hospitals report more than 100 new cases per day.

Chikungunya was identified in Africa in 1953 and is found throughout the tropics of the Eastern Hemisphere. It is spread by two species of mosquitoes, aedesaegypti and aedesalbopictus. It's also a traveler-borne virus under the right circumstances.

It can spread to a new area if someone has it circulating in their system during a relatively short period of time, roughly 2-3 days before the onset of symptoms to 5 days after, and then arrives to an area with the right kind of mosquitoes.

For years, there have been sporadic cases of travelers diagnosed with chikungunya but without local transmission. □

Dominican citizenship bill gets final OK in Senate

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) —

The Senate gave final legislative approval Wednesday night to a bill that will set up a system for granting naturalized citizenship and permanent residency to people of Haitian descent born in this Caribbean country.

All 26 lawmakers present in the Senate chamber voted for the bill during an emergency session. It must now be officially published by President Danilo Medina to become law. The measure was introduced by Medina's administration and the lower house unanimously passed it last week.

Medina submitted the bill after an international outcry erupted over a ruling last year by the country's Constitutional Court allowing the government to strip the citizenship of thousands

of people born to migrants living illegally in the Dominican Republic.

Rights groups estimated about 200,000 people could lose their citizenship, nearly all of them of Haitian descent. But the government maintained that only 24,000 people would be affected, with some 13,000 of them of Haitian ancestry.

The court's ruling aggravated longstanding tensions between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola. Both countries withdrew their ambassadors, but officials of both governments have since met to talk about the decision.

Anibal de Castro, the Dominican Republic's ambassador to the U.S., praised the president and the country's lawmakers for their swift action in approving the legislation.

"Through this historic legisla-

tion, President Danilo Medina fulfilled his commitment to finding a just and equi-

system," de Castro said in a statement.

The legislation seeks to up-



Dominicans of Haitian descent gather at a rally in front of Dominican National Palace to protest against "denationalization", holding a sign that reads in Spanish "President Medina, stand by your word and reinstate our right", in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Senate gave final legislative approval to a bill that will set up a system for granting naturalized citizenship and permanent residency to people of Haitian descent born in this Caribbean country.

(AP Photo/Ezequiel Abiu Lopez)

table solution for undocumented persons, while giving clarity to an outdated

registered with the government's civil registry and who have various identification documents.

Critics of Medina's bill have noted that many people do not possess those documents or have had them seized by government officials. They say the legislation will force these people to register as aliens in the land of their birth.

Under the legislation, people without the proper documents but who are able to prove they were born in the Dominican Republic will have a window of 90 days to register for regular immigration status. They can then apply for full citizenship after two years of residency.

Juliana Deguis Pierre, a woman of Haitian descent who has been fighting for her Dominican citizenship, said last week that she hopes the measure achieves what it promises. □



Party Time



Rickey Smiley headlines tonight's Soul Beach Comedy Concert!

ORANJESTAD – Off to a hot start, the Soul Beach Music Festival 2014 continues today with more cool events throughout the day, culminating with the highly anticipated Comedy Concert, tonight, from 7pm to 11pm at the Renaissance Festival Plaza, featuring headliner Rickey Smiley, joined by Chris Spencer, Special K, Ced Delaney and Lavar Walker.

Comedian, Television host, Movie Star, Top-rated syndicated Radio Personality, and proud Father of 6, for over 20 years, tonight's Comedy Concert headliner Rickey Smiley has been one of the most beloved performers in American media, earning

a reputation for delivering boundless laughter on-air, on-stage, and on-screen. Every morning, millions of Americans in nearly 60 cities listen to Rickey Smiley and his 6 outrageous cast members on "The Rickey Smiley Morning Show." His interviews with major celebrities, social political awareness and trademark prank phone calls have made Smiley one of the most listened to radio personalities in history. Rickey Smiley's down home southern humor, opting to use insight rather than vulgarity to get laughs, is at the core of his success. His audiences are treated to such original characters as "Mrs. Bernice Jenkins", "Lil' Darrl," "Joe

Willie" and "Beauford." Smiley is known for his clean comedic style and his reputation to sell out venues across the country. To movie audiences, Smiley is best known for "All About The Benjamins" and "Friday After Next". He's recorded 8 best selling CDs including iTunes #1 Best Selling Comedy Album, "Rickey Smiley-Prank Calls Number 6". On television he's hosted BET's "Open Casket Sharp" and "Comic View", appeared on "Showtime At The Apollo," "Uptown Comedy Club", HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and "Snaps". Smiley graduated from Alabama State University, became KBFB's (Dallas) morning show personality in 2004,

and soon moved his show to WHTA Atlanta.

When not performing, Smiley is the ultimate devoted father, single handedly raising 6 kids, the subject of a soon to be released parenting book.

The evening closes with a steamy Nightclub Party scheduled from 11pm - 3am at the Renaissance Convention Center (Oranjestad), featuring Frank Ski of WHUR, out of Washington, DC. Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door. (*No cameras will be allowed into concert venues.)

Other events scheduled for today include:
--Live Radio Remote Broadcasts

6am - 10am
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino - Poolside (Oranjestad)

The Rickey Smiley Morning Show - Nationally Syndicated

10am - 2pm
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

The Am/Pm Workload Show With Gee Money - Laser 101, St. Maarten
10am - 3pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)
Mid-Day With Triscina Grey - WHUR, Wash. DC

--Soul Beach Daytime Event
11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

Featuring: Dj Sidekick (Los Angeles). □

The Radisson Hosts Rooftop Reception in Honor of Meeting Planners from North America



Beauty on the Beach

Maria Isabel

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PALM BEACH - General Manager Mark Lyttleton-Frances, Director of Sales & Marketing Arianne Valentino and their team members welcomed a group of important meeting planners to a roof top reception in the Aruba Tower Presidential Suite, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The resort partnered with the Aruba Tourism Authority, and the Aruba Convention Bureau to produce a fun-filled and action-packed weekend of activities designed to introduce

product Aruba to the visiting dignitaries. The resort, Aruba's Grand Dame, many time recipient of The Outstanding Meeting Facility award given to hotels around the world based on comfortable rooms, thoughtful amenities and attentive service which all make meeting attendees feel at home while traveling, specializes in smoothly run programs and fits all conventions' criteria, and group requirements. While here on the island, the dignitaries hailing from

various cities in the USA, were able to experience all that the resort and the island have to offer, including Larimar Spa where the visiting dignitaries tried a prestigious new product line, and treatments, by world-renowned ESPA brand, made with all-natural ingredients. Most of them also visited the Casino at the Radisson, and lounged poolside and on the beach, between island tours, and visits to Arikok National Park, the Aruba Aloe Factory, and De Palm

Island, among other interesting spots.

Pictured, the rooftop cocktail party hosted by the General Manager and his executive staff, in honor of the Destination Review. The

sunset happy hour party featured bottomless cocktails over elegant, upscale hors d'oeuvres, and took place on the 9th floor penthouse deck, overlooking Palm Beach at sunset. □

Island Guests honored for their loyalty to Aruba!



NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Caribbean Palm Village, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Good Will. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Crystal Smith and their daughter Hayley Smith of Owosso, Michigan and Mr. David

Keytanjian of Soring City, Pennsylvania. All the honorees are loyal members of the Caribbean Palm Village and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, Casinos and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Caribbean Palm Village is their home away from home.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Mislady Fingal representing the Caribbean Palm Village. □



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The simple ceremony has since become an annual event and has welcomed veterans from all nations to take part. We are pleased to say that participation has increased significantly. From the beginning, we have attempted to keep the ceremony simple, solemn and apolitical.

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some of our vets who might find it difficult to stand in the sun too long. We have attracted veterans from all nations – Holland, Aruba and South Africa to mention a few. So in fairness to all, we thought that large national banners and anthems would be inappropriate. However, we encourage participants to wear any uniforms or national symbols they wish to wear.

Veterans will gather on the beach at 10am on May 26th to form the detail. We ask that viewers leave the area of the beach clear between the detail and

the surf.

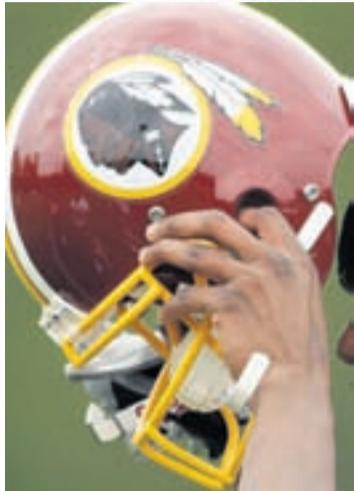
There will be a call to attention followed by a reading of the poem "We Stand by the Sea" as a memorial wreath of flowers will be placed in the surf. There will then be another poem read followed by the playing of Taps and the presentation of arms by the Detail. The Detail will then be dismissed. All those wishing to join us on Memorial Day, May 26th are welcomed. We will convene on the beach at 10 am.

This will be the 10th Anniversary and we are expecting over 200 people. □

BON DIA *Aruba*

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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

In this May 1, 2009 file photo, Washington Redskins Marko Mitchell puts his helmet on during their NFL football minicamp practice at their training facility in Ashburn, Va. Associated Press

50 senators: Change Redskins' racist name

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Half the U.S. Senate urged NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Thursday to change the Washington Redskins' name, saying it is a racist slur and the time is ripe to replace it.

In one letter, 49 senators cited the NBA's quick action recently to ban Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling for life after he was heard on an audio recording making offensive comments about blacks. They said Goodell should formally push to rename the Redskins. "We urge you and the National Football League to send the same clear message as the NBA did: that racism and bigotry have no place in professional sports," read the letter, which did not use the word "Redskins." Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, wrote his own letter saying he doesn't believe that retaining the Redskin name "is appropriate in this day and age."

Continued on Next Page

BALK THIS WAY



Tigers get swept on walkoff balk

Page 20

Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Al Alburquerque walks back to the dugout after Cleveland Indians' Asdrubal Cabrera scored the game-winning run in the 13th inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in Cleveland. Associated Press

NL Capsules

'Kick in the butt' spurs Reds past Nats 2-1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alfredo Simon settled down after a poor start and came back after a 61-minute rain delay to win his sixth game, allowing one run over seven innings Thursday in the Cincinnati Reds' 2-1 victory over the Washington Nationals. Simon gave up a leadoff homer to Denard Span in the first, worked out of a jam in the second, then allowed only three more baserunners as the Reds finished a road trip by taking two of three from Washington.

Simon (6-2) threw two innings after the storm that interrupted the game for just over an hour. Jonathan Broxton handled the eighth, and Aroldis Chapman pitched a one-two-three ninth for his third save, hitting 103 mph on the stadium's radar gun on a pitch while striking out Danny Espinosa.

Brandon Phillips and Bryan Pena had RBI singles in the fourth against Tanner Roark (3-2), who allowed six hits and two runs — one unearned — over six innings for the National.

BREWERS 6, BRAVES 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Mark Reynolds hit a first-inning grand slam and Kyle Lohse combined with Francisco Rodriguez on a five-hitter as



Cincinnati Reds center fielder Billy Hamilton holds up the ball after making a catch on a ball hit by Washington Nationals' Denard Span during the eighth inning of a baseball game at Nationals Park Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in Washington. The play was originally ruled a catch, but overturned on a challenge, and Span had a hit. The Reds won 2-1.

Associated Press

the Brewers ended a four-game losing streak. Carlos Gomez added a two-run homer in the fourth for Milwaukee.

Lohse (6-1) was sharp in going eight innings to win his sixth straight decision. He gave up one run on four hits with no walks and eight strikeouts. Lohse's only loss of the season came against the Braves on April 1.

After being shut out 5-0 Tuesday night, the Brewers skipped batting practice Wednesday and then jumped on Ervin Santana (4-2) in the first inning. Gomez singled, Scooter Gennett doubled and Jona-

than Lucroy took a one-out walk before Reynolds' third career grand slam — a line drive over the left-field wall. Reynolds snapped a 0-for-12 streak with his ninth homer.

GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 1
DENVER (AP) — Hunter Pence hit one of San Francisco's three solo homers and reliever Yusmeiro Petit threw three sharp innings after starter Matt Cain left with a strained right hamstring.

Pablo Sandoval and Brandon Crawford also connected for the NL West-leading Giants, who won at Coors Field for just the fifth

time in 15 games dating back to last season.

Cain didn't allow a hit through three innings, before giving way to Petit (3-1). He and four other relievers limited the best offensive team in the majors to just five hits.

Jhoulys Chacin (0-3) worked 5 2-3 innings and allowed three runs, including a homer to Pence in the fourth and another to Sandoval two innings later.

MARLINS 14, PHILLIES 5
MIAMI (AP) — Marcell Ozuna hit a grand slam and drove in five runs to help power Miami.

Christian Yelich, Garrett

Jones, and Jarrod Saltalamacchia each drove in two runs for the Marlins, who have the best home record (18-6) in baseball.

Nathan Eovaldi (3-2) allowed three runs—one earned—and 10 hits in six innings for Miami.

Ozuna's first career grand slam and seventh home run of the season broke the game open in the seventh inning. Miami led 6-3 with two outs before Jeff Manziel loaded the bases and Ozuna smacked a pitch over the left-field wall.

Phillies starter Kyle Kendrick (0-5) came into the game with a 10-game winning streak against the Marlins, but lost his 10th consecutive game overall.

DODGERS 4, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Adrian Gonzalez homered for the third straight game, and Yasiel Puig and Hanley Ramirez hit back-to-back shots for Los Angeles.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (4-2) came off the disabled list and pitched the Dodgers to their 11th victory in 12 meetings with the Mets dating to July 1, 2012. Ramirez drove in two runs and Los Angeles enjoyed most of the vocal support from the 23,721 fans at Citi Field, many of whom turned out to cheer Ryu. □

Redskins

Continued from Page 17

He described himself as "one of your great fans for both the game and you personally."

The letters come at a time of growing pressure to change the team name, with statements in recent months from President Barack Obama, lawmakers of both parties and civil rights groups.

Redskins owner Daniel Snyder has refused to change the name, citing tradition. The franchise has been known as the Redskins since 1933, when it played in Boston.

Last month, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., took to the Senate floor to say Snyder should "do what is morally right"



Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, right, talks with Assemblyman Keith Wright, D-New York, left, and Sen. George Maziarz, R-Lockport, before a news conference on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in Albany, N.Y. A bipartisan group of New York lawmakers is calling on the NFL's Washington Redskins to drop the team's name.

Associated Press

and change the name. Thursday's letters were aimed directly at Goodell. In a written response, NFL spokesman Brian McCar-

thy said "diversity and inclusion" have long been a focus of the NFL.

"The intent of the team's name has always been to

present a strong, positive and respectful image," McCarthy said. "The name is not used by the team or the NFL in any other context, though we respect those that view it differently."

Reid and Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., led the letter-writing effort. All senators on the letter are Democrats. Cantwell spokesman Jared Leopold said Republicans were not asked to participate.

Cantwell later said on the Senate floor that she was inviting Republicans to sign the letter or write their own. "I'm convinced that if each member of this body speaks on this issue and is forceful in their resolve, that we can help initiate change," she said.

Democrats not signing the letter were Tim Kaine and

Mark Warner of nearby Virginia, where the team's headquarters are; Mark Pryor of Arkansas, in a tight re-election race this year; and Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Joe Donnelly of Indiana, two of their party's more moderate lawmakers.

The senators noted that tribal organizations representing more than 2 million Native Americans across the U.S. have said they want the Redskins name dropped.

Despite federal laws protecting their identity, "Every Sunday during football season, the Washington, D.C., football team mocks their culture," they wrote.

"The NFL can no longer ignore this and perpetuate the use of this name as anything but what it is: a racial slur," the letter said. □

AL Capsules

Indians beat Tigers 11-10 on walk-off balk

CLEVELAND (AP) — Asdrubal Cabrera scored off Al Alburquerque's bases-loaded baulk in the 13th inning to give the Cleveland Indians an 11-10 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

Alex Avila's two-out homer in the top of the inning put Detroit ahead, but the Indians scored twice for their second walk-off win in the three-game sweep. Mike Aviles led off with a single against Phil Coke (0-1) and took second on Michael Bourn's sacrifice. After Asdrubal Cabrera was hit by a pitch, Michael Brantley lined a single to left for his fourth hit that scored Aviles, who slid home before Rajai Davis' throw.

After a groundout, Alburquerque relieved and pinch-hitter Yan Gomes was walked intentionally to load the bases. Ryan Raburn took the first pitch for a ball. As Alburquerque went into his stretch, he appeared to move his leg and then stopped, and was called for the balk.

Josh Tomlin (3-1), the Indi-

ans' ninth pitcher, worked the final three innings.

David Murphy's two-run homer for Cleveland in the ninth off Joe Nathan tied it. Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera and manager Brad Ausmus were ejected in the sixth inning by plate umpire Tim Timmons for arguing balls and strikes.

RANGERS 4, MARINERS 3
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Nick Tepesch won for the first time in more than 10 months and Shin-Soo Choo hit a tie-breaking home run as Texas defeated Seattle. Choo led off the fifth with his homer into the bullpen in left-center. Joakim Soria pitched a perfect inning for his eighth save.

Tepesch (1-0) went 6 1-3 innings for his first win since last July 5. He allowed five hits and two walks.

Texas scored three runs in the first inning against former Rangers right-hander Chris Young (3-2). Elvis Andrus hit a two-run homer for the Rangers.

Robinson Cano hit a two-run homer for Seattle.

BLUE JAYS 6, RED SOX 4

Parkhurst, midfielders Joe Corona and Maurice Edu, and forward Terrence Boyd.

Donovan has 57 goals in 156 international appearances and has been the face of American football for a decade, both with the national team and with Major League Soccer, where he has won five titles.

Donovan was a mainstay of the national team before he took a sabbatical of about four months after the 2012 season, spending part of the time in Cambodia. Klinsmann said Donovan would have to



Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Al Alburquerque walks back to the dugout after Cleveland Indians' Asdrubal Cabrera scored the game-winning run in the 13th inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion had two homers for the second straight game as Toronto sent the Red Sox to their sixth consecutive loss.

Encarnacion has seven homers in his last six games. He is the first Toronto player to have four multi-homer games in a month, and the first major-leaguer to do so since Troy Tulowitzki in September of 2010.

Drew Hutchison (3-3) allowed one run in 5 1-3 innings for Toronto, which has won seven of its last nine games. The Blue Jays have won three consecutive series. Casey Janssen pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Xander Bogaerts had three

hits, including two doubles, for Boston. Clay Buchholz (2-4) allowed four earned runs in 4 2-3 innings.

ROYALS 3, WHITE SOX 1
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Jeremy Guthrie, Wade Davis and Greg Holland combined on a four-hitter as Kansas City rallied in the eighth inning to avoid being swept in a three-game series.

The White Sox had scored 14 runs and hit five home runs in the first two games. Guthrie, who is winless in seven starts since an April 9 victory over Tampa Bay, left after seven innings with the score 1-1. He gave up three hits, walked two and struck out two.

Wade Davis (3-1) struck out two in a flawless eighth and has tossed 10 scoreless innings in his last nine appearances. Greg Holland logged his 13th save in 14 chances, but not before giving up a single to Dayan Viciedo and walking Adam Dunn in the ninth.

ATHLETICS 3, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Brandon Moss hit a solo homer for Oakland's only hit as the Athletics took advantage of the sloppy Rays. Oakland scored twice on two errors and a pair of walks in the second inning, helping the A's win for the first time since at least 1914 while getting only one hit, according to the team.

Moss hit his 10th home run — and 11th extra-base hit in seven games — off Erik Bedard in the fourth inning. Oakland's fifth straight victory, coupled with Detroit's loss earlier Wednesday, gave the A's the best record in the major leagues at 30-16.

Tommy Milone (2-3) gave up two runs in 5 2-3 innings for the A's, who have won 11 of 12.

Bedard (2-2) pitched 5 1-3 innings for the Rays. Four Rays relievers finished the one-hitter.

ANGELS 2, ASTROS 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Jered Weaver pitched a two-hitter for his first complete game in nearly two years and Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth for Los Angeles. □

Donovan among 7 cuts on U.S. World Cup roster

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer
STANFORD, California

(AP) — Leading scorer Landon Donovan was among seven players cut as the United States announced its 23-man World Cup squad on Thursday. The 32-year-old attacker, bidding to make his fourth World Cup, was bypassed by U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann in favor of Aron Johannsson and Chris Wondolowski, who joined Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey as the forwards.

Also cut were defenders Brad Evans, Clarence Goodson and Michael

Parkhurst, midfielders Joe Corona and Maurice Edu, and forward Terrence Boyd. Donovan has 57 goals in 156 international appearances and has been the face of American football for a decade, both with the national team and with Major League Soccer, where he has won five titles.

Donovan was a mainstay of the national team before he took a sabbatical of about four months after the 2012 season, spending part of the time in Cambodia. Klinsmann said Donovan would have to



United States forward Landon Donovan stretches with assistance from a trainer in preparation for the World Cup soccer tournament on Thursday, May 22, 2014, in Stanford, Calif.

Associated Press

Spurs roll to 2-0 lead with 112-77 rout of Thunder

RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -- The San Antonio Spurs are rolling toward a return to the NBA Finals, and Oklahoma City looks powerless to slow them down without Serge Ibaka.

Tony Parker scored 22 points, Danny Green made seven 3-pointers and added 21, and the Spurs used a dominant third quarter to decimate the Thunder 112-77 on Wednesday night and take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Tim Duncan added 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Manu Ginobili and Boris Diaw had 11 points apiece off the bench in San Antonio's second straight rout.

"We just did our job. We won our first two games at home and I'm sure they're going to go back and say we have to do our job and win two games at home," Parker said, recalling that the Spurs blew a 2-0 lead against the Thunder in the 2012 West finals.

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook each had 15 points,

but the third-quarter barrage made spectators of both - not that they accomplished much when they did play. The star duo combined to shoot 13 for 40, including 4 for 14 in the third quarter.

Game 3 is Sunday at Oklahoma City, and the Spurs are trying to remind themselves it probably won't remain this easy.

"Manu said it's a dangerous win but I believe in our group," Green said. "I believe that we have the maturity, the character and the experience to stay focused and not take this win to head."

Playing without the injured Ibaka and given two days to adjust to dropping Game 1 by 17 points, the Thunder performed worse.

San Antonio closed the first half on a 25-8 run, then Parker and Green each had eight points in the third quarter as San Antonio outscored Oklahoma City 33-18.

"If they had won this game by one point, we'd still be down 0-2," Durant said.

"(We) lost by a lot two games in a row. It's hard for you to stay together,



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, of France, drives around Oklahoma City Thunder's Nick Collison, left, during the first half of Game 2 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

Carter-Williams headlines NBA all-rookie team

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Carter-Williams has been unanimously chosen to the NBA's all-rookie team. Chosen 11th overall in the draft, the Philadelphia 76ers guard was the only unanimous selection, which also includes Orlando's Victor Oladipo, Utah's Trey Burke, Brooklyn's Mason Plumlee and New York's Tim Hardaway Jr.

The voting was done by 125 writers and broadcasters in the United States and Canada.

Carter-Williams averaged 16.7 points, 6.3 assists and 6.2 rebounds, joining Oscar Robertson and Magic Johnson as the only rookies in NBA history to average at least 16.0 points, 6.0



This is a Sept. 27, 2013 file photo shows Philadelphia 76ers guard Michael Carter-Williams posed during media day at the team's practice facility in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

rebounds and 6.0 assists. He was voted the league rookie of the year. □

but we have a group of guys that are not front-runners and we'll figure it out."

It was a shocking turn for the Thunder, who started well.

"It definitely doesn't feel good and it shouldn't," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "I hope our locker doesn't feel good. You shouldn't feel good. We got our butts kicked. But we have a good opportunity to come back and win Game 3."

Oklahoma City opened more aggressive on both ends, especially defensively. The physicality disrupted the Spurs early and frustrated them emotionally.

Duncan was issued a technical with about 5 minutes left in the first quarter after complaining when Ed Malloy ruled he threw a hip into Durant.

It turned out the Spurs veteran had little to worry about, as the Thunder finished just 4 for 9 on free throws.

The Thunder scored five straight to open the game, with Westbrook's 3 capping the early run and producing what would become their largest lead of the series at 5-0.

Oklahoma City did not go under on pick-and-rolls as they did in Game 1, which allowed Parker more scoring opportunities. He took four shots in the opening five minutes. His first two baskets came on driving layups, including running right down the middle of the lane with Thabo Sefolosha trailing by a couple of steps.

San Antonio continued to struggle with its shot, but righted itself with offensive rebounding.

Green hit consecutive

3s to extend the Spurs' advantage to 55-44 with a minute left in the first half. San Antonio later rebounded a missed layup by Ginobili and Parker's errant 3-pointer, leading to a high-arcing 3 by Ginobili for a 58-44 lead. Ginobili then drew a charge on Westbrook's 3 on the ensuing possession.

Durant and Westbrook opened the game 9 for 26 in the first half. Durant had one field goal in the final 16 minutes of the first half.

Durant made his first two field goals of the second half, but did not have another for the rest of the half. Oklahoma City went scoreless for two minutes midway through the third quarter as San Antonio built its lead to 76-50 on a pair of free throws by Duncan with 6:20 remaining. □



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Kings rally past Blackhawks 6-2 in Game 2

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) -- Jeff Carter and the Los Angeles Kings know how to come back in the playoffs. This was no big deal compared to the first two rounds. Carter scored three of Los Angeles' six straight goals, and the Kings beat the Chicago Blackhawks 6-2 on Wednesday night to even the Western Conference final at a game apiece. Tyler Toffoli and Jake Muzzin also scored in Los Angeles' five-goal third period to help the Kings become the first visiting team to win in Chicago this postseason. The Blackhawks won their first seven home playoff games this year, but the Kings skated right by Chicago after the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks took a 2-0 lead in the second period.

"Just sticking with what we need to do," Carter said. "You know, we got a good group of leaders in our room. We've been through comebacks and whatnot a lot lately. Obviously, not something we want to do. But we stick with it, grind it out, get the job done."

The early deficit was just a small speed bump for Los Angeles, dubbed the comeback Kings for their play in the opening two rounds.

Los Angeles trailed 3-0 in its first playoff series against San Jose, and won four straight games to eliminate the Sharks. The Kings overcame a 3-2 series deficit in the second round against top-seeded Anaheim.

"We know we can win," forward Jarret Stoll said. "That's the bottom line. They've got a good team, but we feel we do too."

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Nick Leddy and Ben Smith scored for Chicago, which won 3-1 in Game 1 on Sunday. "The way it turned on a dime like that, I don't know if we've seen a game like that all year

where we're doing everything all right and all of a sudden it was a disaster," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. Chicago was in position for its fourth consecutive win before Carter redirected Drew Doughty's slap shot by Corey Crawford to tie it at 2 just 1:37 into the third. Muzzin then had another power-play score at 4:04 that gave Los Angeles the

1993, against Vancouver, according to STATS. Wayne Gretzky had two of those goals and watched Wednesday's game from a suite at the United Center.

It was the most goals allowed by the Blackhawks in a playoff game since a 6-1 loss to Detroit on May 24, 2009.

"Obviously, things unraveled during the third," Chicago

ing.

Leddy put Chicago in front with a power-play goal at 14:16 of the first, and Smith beat Quick on a line change to make 2-0 at 1:40 of the second. It was Leddy's second career playoff goal. He also scored on April 21, 2012, at Phoenix.

The Blackhawks had another prime scoring chance when Kris Versteeg made a nice pass



Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick (32) saves a shot by Chicago Blackhawks' Michal Handzus (26) during the second period in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs in Chicago on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. **Associated Press**

lead.

Once the Kings got going, they appeared to get almost anything they wanted against the sagging Blackhawks. Tanner Pearson set up goals by Toffoli at 8:59 and Carter at 14:44, and Carter added an empty-netter for his seventh of the playoffs.

"We knew the third period was going to be our best period in this series so far," Doughty said. "We were just adamant in here about coming out, taking the pressure, getting a goal early and we did that."

It was the first time Los Angeles had five goals in single post-season period since May 7,

forward Patrick Sharp said. "We're not happy. And we're looking forward to getting on the plane and making up for it in Game 3."

Jonathan Quick made 23 saves for the Kings, including a big stop on Brent Seabrook with Chicago trying for a 3-0 lead in the second.

The Blackhawks got off to a strong start, using their speed to draw four penalties in the first period alone. Brandon Saad was responsible for two of the calls, making a pair of nice moves that ended with Matt Greene in the box for hooking and Doughty sent off for hold-

to Seabrook on a 2-on-1, but Quick got over to make a nice stop on the defenseman's shot. "Just trying to get it over the post," Quick said. "Fortunate to get a piece of it."

Quick's play on Seabrook provided more time for the Kings to get back in the game, and they took advantage when Mike Richards' pass to the crease went off Justin Williams' right skate and past Crawford with 1:46 left in the second.

Williams' sixth goal of the playoffs cut Chicago's lead to 2-1 after two, and the Kings carried the momentum over to their big third period. □

Nadal not up to usual standards heading to Paris

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — For once, not everything seems so obvious heading into the French Open.

Yes, Rafael Nadal will still be favored by most to win the clay-court Grand Slam tournament yet again. He is, after all, 59-1 for his career at Roland Garros, winner of a record eight championships, including the last four. Still, if the 2014 tennis season to date is any indication, there could be some surprises in store when play begins in Paris on Sunday. So far, there already was one new major champion, Stanislas Wawrinka at the Australian Open. And there has been a rather egalitarian feel to the spring clay circuit, with nine winners at nine tournaments.

The three top men in the ATP rankings — No. 1 Nadal, No. 2 Novak Djokovic and No. 3 Wawrinka — each claimed a Masters title on the slow red surface, including Djokovic's victory over Nadal in the Rome final last weekend. That gave Nadal three clay losses in a season for the first time since

2004, when he was all of 17 and yet to make his French Open debut.

"It's more normal this year than the last 10 years have

2 players in the world and one player dominating the whole year — and we started to think that's normal. Really, that's the excep-

The regular tour probably benefits from having one superstar that's cleaning up everything, or maybe a rivalry," Wilander added.

it's better. I don't think we want to go there and ask ourselves: Is Nadal going to win a ninth time? That just doesn't excite me at all. It's much more exciting to think that Djokovic is the favorite or that (Roger) Federer has a chance."

Not surprisingly, Nadal does not exactly agree.

He'll be seeded No. 1 for only the third time at Roland Garros — one of those years, 2009, was when his lone loss came, against Robin Soderling in the fourth round — but he could relinquish the top ranking to Djokovic over the course of the 15-day tournament.

Asked about the idea of this year's French Open being a little less predictable, Nadal replied: "I don't care. I don't know. I think about myself. What I have to do."

In addition to dropping a fourth consecutive head-to-head match against Djokovic, Nadal's defeat at the Italian Open followed a series of difficult three-setters in Rome, as well as losses in the — gasp! — quarterfinals of Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

His 41-match winning streak at Barcelona ended against Nicolas Almagro, who had been 0-10 against Nadal.

That came after being beaten at Monte Carlo by David Ferrer, whom Nadal easily beat in last year's French Open final and hadn't lost to anywhere on clay in a decade.

Then again, as Wilander points out, these earlier-than-usual exits mean Nadal arrives in Paris with less wear and tear. Plus those losses were all in best-of-three-set matches, while the French Open is best-of-five. And Nadal did earn the title at the Madrid Open, so he knows he's not completely out of sorts.

"There's all this scar tissue he can reason with and say, 'Hold on, I won Madrid, this is the French Open, I'm fresher than ever.' He's going to put a little less pressure on himself but still go in with a sense of confidence knowing it's five sets," Wilander said. □



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their final match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Sunday, May 18, 2014. Novak Djokovic extended his recent dominance over Rafael Nadal by rallying for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory Sunday to win the Italian Open for the third time.

Associated Press

been because the last years have been strange and we've gotten used to having these great finals between the No. 1 and No.

tion," said Mats Wilander, who won the French Open three times in the 1980s.

"Heading into the French Open, it's more exciting.

"But the French Open and the other Slams benefit from having no clear-cut favorite. That's the way it used to be, and I think

Uran wins 12th stage of Giro d'Italia

BAROLO, Italy (AP) — Rigoberto Uran won the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia and took the overall lead on Thursday.

The Colombian was 57 seconds behind Cadel Evans going into the stage, then won the 42-kilometer (26-mile) individual time trial from Barbaresco to Barolo in under an hour, and Evans finished 1 minute, 34 seconds behind in third.

"It's incredible, I'm really surprised. I didn't think that I would win it. I cannot believe I won the stage and took the pink jersey," Uran said. "I worked a lot on my time trial, spending time in the wind tunnel over the winter, but today surpassed my expectations.

"It's too early to say the race is over. We still have not raced the hardest mountains yet. The most

difficult part of the Giro is still to come."

Uran took the pink jersey off Evans to lead the Australian by 37 seconds.

"I saw Uran coming into form," Evans said, "but I honestly did not expect him to have such an amazing time trial. Of course, I had hoped to have done better myself. The time trial course suited me well, but as I said yesterday, the verdict is on the road.

"My position is good tactically. It is going to be interesting."

Diego Ulissi led for most of the day and looked on course for a third stage victory in the race but had to settle for second after Uran beat the Italian cyclist's time by 1:17.

Overall, Rafal Majka was third, 1:52 behind Uran. Thomas de Gendt was one



Colombia's Rigoberto Uran pedals to win the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Barbaresco to Barolo, Italy, Thursday, May 22, 2014, and take the overall lead in the race.

Associated Press

of the early leaders and was in front for a long time as he was one of the last cyclists to complete the stage on dry roads.

Later cyclists struggled in the rain, and there was even thunder and lightning at the finish.

There was a scare when Tobias Ludvigsson misjudged a corner on the technical descent and went flying over a barrier, landing

hard after a short drop. He lay prone for several minutes but was later seen sitting up before being taken to hospital.

The weather abated and the roads were beginning to dry out again when Ulissi came flying out of the starting gates.

He crossed the line 50 seconds ahead of De Gendt, who eventually finished eighth. □

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Review: Apple's CarPlay headed in right direction

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple is getting ready to hitch the iPhone to cars in a mobile marriage of convenience.

The ambitious project, called CarPlay, implants some of the iPhone's main applications in automobiles so drivers can control them with voice commands, a touch on the steering wheel or a swipe on a display screen in the dashboard.

It's expected to be available this summer when Pioneer Electronics plans to release a software update for five car radios designed to work with the iPhone. Alpine Electronics also is working on CarPlay-compatible radios for cars already on the road. Honda, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo and Ferrari are among those expected to start selling car models with built-in CarPlay services this year. Google Inc. is working with car makers to do something similar with smartphones running its Android operating system, but Apple Inc. appears to be further along in efforts to make it easier and safer to text, email, get directions, select music and, yes, even make calls while driving.

I recently checked out a test version of CarPlay in a van equipped with a Pioneer radio designed to work with the iPhone.

The demonstration through the streets of San Francisco convinced me that Apple is on the right track. The CarPlay system is bound to appeal to iPhone fans who spend a lot of time behind the wheel. It makes less sense for iPhone owners who, like me, spend more of their time walking and



In this photo taken Wednesday, May 14, 2014, Ted Cardenas, a marketing vice president with Pioneer Electronics, demonstrates the new Apple CarPlay powered by Pioneer, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

riding public transportation instead of driving.

If you want CarPlay, you will need an iPhone 5, 5s or 5c. An iPad won't work. The phones also must be running Apple's latest software, iOS 7.1. Free upgrades are available for older phones.

If you already have one of Pioneer's five compatible radios, a free firmware update is all you'll need.

Otherwise, CarPlay's biggest drawback is the cost. If you want it in a car you already own, compatible radios from Pioneer sell for \$700 to \$1,400. After factoring in other required parts and labor, figure on spending \$900 to \$1,000 just to get Pioneer's least-expensive CarPlay system in your vehicle. That's more than the price of a new iPhone, but cheaper than buying a new car with CarPlay built in. Pioneer's top-of-the-line CarPlay radio features a 7-inch screen that shows the iPhone apps for calls,

contacts, music, maps and messaging when the device is plugged in with a cable.

Other mobile music apps, including Spotify, Beats Music and iHeartRadio, are supposed to be eventually available on CarPlay, too. Facebook, YouTube and other apps that show a lot of photos and video won't be available for safety and legal reasons.

The key to CarPlay's success may hinge on Siri, the iPhone's digital personal assistant. Apple has been striving to make Siri smarter and more versatile, an endeavor that CarPlay figures to put to the test.

Siri serves as CarPlay's central nervous system, doing everything from taking email dictation, reading incoming text messages out loud, and scrolling through the system for song requests or different genres of music. Summoning Siri can be done by touching a button on the steering

wheel or CarPlay's display screen.

While CarPlay also responds to touch, the system is at its best when Siri is doing most of the work. I got only a half-hour demo of CarPlay, too little time to determine whether Siri will

be up to the job.

Within minutes of getting in the car, Siri couldn't retrieve the correct address for a requested restaurant in San Francisco. Instead, CarPlay listed several other places with the same name, so Siri apparently at least heard the request correctly. The omission of the requested restaurant may have reflected shortcomings in Apple's database of local businesses.

Beyond that, Siri performed flawlessly reading back incoming texts, composing and sending emails and playing the role of disc jockey when asked to play the music of specific artists such as AC/DC. It took only a few seconds before "Back in Black" blasted through the stereo. Even a question about Arnold Schwarzenegger, a name that can be difficult to decipher, didn't stump Siri.

If Siri is able to consistently handle those kinds of challenges, then CarPlay could make the iPhone an even more indispensable mobile device. □

Facebook expands privacy checkup tool

NEW YORK (AP) -- More Facebook users can expect to see a blue cartoon dinosaur popping up in their feeds, reminding them to check their privacy settings.

No stranger to privacy fiascos, Facebook had already made the tool available to users who were posting public updates. The feature is designed to remind people how widely they share posts, what apps they use and other privacy issues.

Facebook engineering manager Raylene Yung says the tool is the result of user feedback and decisions by the company to improve the user experience.

Facebook says users are sometimes worried about sharing something by accident, or sharing with the wrong audience.

Facebook will also make the default audience for new users' posts to "friends." Previously, it was set to public. □

Economic data on US, China boost stocks

AP Business Writer

Stocks got off to a good start Thursday and held onto their gains, carving out a modest increase for the second day in a row. Amid a relatively slow week of trading, thin on major economic news and leading into the Memorial Day weekend, investors drew encouragement from a mixed bag of economic and housing data. Improving earnings from Dollar Tree, Best Buy and other retailers also helped lift the market.

Major indexes were already pointing to a slight uptick ahead of the start of regular trading after a survey from HSBC suggested the slowdown in China's economy is flattening. May's reading on China's manufacturing sector was the best in five months.

After the market opened, investors received more encouraging news. The Conference Board said its index of leading economic indicators posted a solid gain for the month. That provided more evidence that U.S. growth strengthened in April after a severe winter slowed businesses down.



Qiangdong Liu, CEO of JD.com, raises his arms to celebrate the IPO for his company at the Nasdaq MarketSite, Thursday, May 22, 2014 in New York. JD.com, China's No. 2 e-commerce service, is headquartered in Beijing.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

"A revival in China is good for emerging markets, good for global growth and therefore good for stocks, and not so hot for bonds," noted Krishna Memani, chief investment officer at Oppenheimer Funds. A U.S. government report showing a rise in the num-

ber of people seeking unemployment benefits last week didn't dampen the market's upward trend. Nor did the latest sales data for previously occupied U.S. homes, which were up modestly on a monthly basis in April, but down from a year ago, according to

the National Association of Realtors. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 4.46 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 1,892.49. The index is up 2.4 percent for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.02 points, or 0.1 percent, to end at 16,543.08. The Nasdaq composite index added 22.80 points, or 0.6 percent, to finish at 4,154.34. The Dow and Nasdaq remain down slightly for 2014. Small-company stocks also extended their prior-day rally, pushing the Russell 2000 index up 10.24 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,113.87. Bond prices fell slightly. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.55 percent from 2.54 percent late Wednesday.

Major indexes have finished slightly higher in four of the last five trading days. The gains have nudged the S&P 500 index, which hit a high early last week, up 0.8 percent for this week.

Among the biggest variables influencing the markets this year have been uncertainty over when U.S. growth will accelerate and concern that growth in China is slowing. □

Virtual rift leads to legal rift with Oculus, ZeniMax

NICK WINGFIELD

© 2014 New York Times

A dispute over Oculus VR, the virtual reality startup Facebook is buying for \$2 billion, escalated on this week, as ZeniMax Media said in a lawsuit that it has not been paid for its contributions to Oculus' virtual reality headset.

The accusations by ZeniMax, a game publisher, center on the technical assistance that John Carmack, a well-known game programmer and former ZeniMax employee, provided to a co-founder of Oculus in 2012, before Oculus was formed. Carmack continued to provide software code and other help to Oculus, eventually joining Oculus as its chief technology officer, says the complaint, which was filed on Wednesday at U.S. District Court in Dallas.

The essence of ZeniMax's complaint is that Palmer Luckey, the Oculus co-founder, and the rest of his team did not have the know-how to create the Oculus Rift,

the virtual reality headset, without the help of Carmack, who helped create the pioneering games "Doom" and "Quake."

"Without it, there would not have been a viable Rift product," the suit says.

ZeniMax's concerns about Oculus first came to light earlier this month, after lawyers for ZeniMax began increasing pressure on Oculus to reach an agreement over compensation for its contributions to its product. Previously, the companies had wrangled in private over the matter. The suit said that in September 2012,

Oculus proposed giving ZeniMax a stake of 2 percent for its contributions and selling it an additional stake of 3 percent for \$1.2 million. ZeniMax countered with a demand for a larger share of the company, which Oculus refused, according to the complaint. Subsequent negotiations on the matter foundered. □

Sears 1Q loss widens, sales remain soft

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
MICHELLE CHAPMAN

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears Holdings signaled that it may close more stores than the 80 locations it is shuttering this year as the beleaguered retailer looks for ways to restore profitability and raise cash.

The news came as the Hoffman Estates, Illinois-based company, which operates Kmart as well as Sears stores, reported a wider first-quarter loss as sales declined 7 percent.

The biggest drag was consumer electronics, a category that has been suffering because of price competition online. Sears Holdings Corp., controlled by billionaire hedge fund investor Edward Lampert, has been cutting costs, re-



Shoppers walk into Sears in Peabody, Mass. Sears reported sluggish quarterly earnings on Thursday, May 22, 2014.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

ducing inventory and selling assets to return to profitability. Sears announced last week that it was considering selling its Canadian operations. It recently spun off clothing business Lands' End as a separate public company after not

having much success with it. At the same time, it's shifting away from its focus on running a store network to operating a member-focused business. But its biggest albatross remains its stores, which have been criticized for being

outdated. By the end of the first quarter, the company operated 1,900 Sears and Kmart stores.

Lampert, who is chairman and CEO, combined Sears and Kmart in 2005, about two years after he helped bring Kmart out of bankruptcy. But it has faced mounting pressure from nimbler rivals like Wal-Mart Stores and Home Depot. Moreover, Sears is also facing broader issues that are tripping up many other retailers. Like other stores catering to low- to middle-income customers, Sears is wrestling with a slowly recovering economy that's not benefiting all Americans equally. It also faces a shifting landscape where mobile shoppers want more flexibility on where and how they buy. □

Web retailer JD.com's IPO shows a hunger for China

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
© 2014 New York Times

The biggest test yet of American investors' appetite for a Chinese Internet company has passed with flying colors - and it doesn't involve the Alibaba Group, that country's e-commerce giant.

Instead, JD.com, an online retailer aspiring to become China's answer to Amazon.com, exceeded expectations for its initial public offering Wednesday, raising \$1.78 billion.

Even though the company has lost money for the last several years, its stock sale valued the company at \$25.7 billion, a valuation even higher than Twitter's at its market debut last fall. The warm reception for JD.com reflects investor hunger for the wave of fast-growing Chinese companies that are going public in the United States to stake their claim as global technology powers.

The biggest of these budding titans remains Alibaba, an amalgam of eBay, Amazon and Google whose astounding growth has inflated expectations for its forthcoming IPO. Analysts have speculated that Alibaba may be worth as much as \$200 billion when it finally goes public, more than the value of Facebook or Amazon.

These Chinese companies have drawn intense interest because they offer shareholders a way to tap China's enormous growth. "They're basically directional bets on the Chinese consumer economy," said Rett Wallace, the chief executive and co-founder of Triton Research.

JD.com, however, is coming to market at a time when the once-torrid pace of technology IPOs has slowed significantly amid concerns over high valuations. Some once-hot stocks, like the security firm FireEye, are trading below their offering prices.

But the allure of a fast-growing Chinese Internet company appears to have proved powerful: The num-

ber of orders for the retailer's stock was 15 times oversubscribed, according to a person briefed on the matter. Shares in JD.com will begin trading on the Nasdaq on Thursday, under the symbol JD.

By many measures, JD.com is not nearly as big as Alibaba, whether by revenue or market value. But the retailer, whose backers include the Chinese mobile software giant Tencent, has established itself as a significant force in its home market on the back of its expansive online shopping empire.

JD.com, which began as a seller of electronics, now claims to be the biggest direct seller to Chinese consumers, with \$20.7 billion worth of goods sold directly to customers last year.

Much of the company's appeal lies in the relatively unconquered Chinese e-commerce market.

In its prospectus, JD.com noted that less than 50 percent of the country's population was online.

And online shopping is expected to grow about 27 percent each year, according to the iResearch Consulting Group.

Though many investors have directly compared JD.com to Alibaba, the two operate differently. JD.com maintains a significant amount of product inventory and owns much of its shipping and logistics network, a business model that many have likened to Amazon's core business.

But Alibaba serves primarily as a middleman between customers and sellers, akin to parts of eBay and Amazon.

Alibaba's is a much less expensive operating model that gives the company its eye-popping margins: Operating profits in the first nine months of its 2013 fiscal year amounted to 48 percent of revenue, a ratio that is the envy of Silicon Valley giants.

By contrast, JD.com has reported a loss in each of the last five years, even as its sales have ballooned. □

Marathon buys Hess stations for \$2.87B

FINDLAY, Ohio (AP) — Marathon Petroleum will spend \$2.87 billion to acquire the retail operations of Hess, the largest chain of company operated gas stations and convenience stores on the East Coast.

The deal, which is being orchestrated under subsidiary Speedway LLC, will expand Marathon's retail operations from nine states to 23 states along the coast and in the Southeast.

Hess Corp. has been reshaping itself as a pure production and exploration company since coming under pressure from hedge fund Elliott Capital Management in 2013. It said last year it would seek a buyer for its retail operations. Hess will use proceeds from the sale for additional stock buybacks. The company boosted its existing share repurchase authorization to \$6.5 billion from \$4 billion.

The deal announced Thursday consists of \$2.37 billion in cash, an estimated \$230 million of working capital and \$274 million of capital leases.

The transaction includes all of Hess' retail locations, transport operations and shipper history on various pipelines, including approximately 40,000 barrels per day on Colonial Pipeline that runs from New York to Houston. □



This photo shows a Marathon gas station pump in Indianapolis. Marathon Petroleum will spend \$2.87 billion to acquire the retail operations of Hess, the largest chain of company operated gas stations and convenience stores on the East Coast, in a deal announced Thursday, May 22, 2014.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy, File)

Google aims to bring ads home - literally

NICK BILTON
© 2014 New York Times

Science fiction got a few things right.

Our home appliances are becoming intelligent, drones are flying through the skies and cars are starting to drive themselves. But they can't fly - yet.

But it seems science fiction thinkers may have missed one big and possibly frightening (or annoying) prediction: that these devices would be another place for advertising.

According to a December letter sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which became public this week, Google hopes to put ads "on refrigerators, car dashboards, thermostats, glasses, and watches, to name just a few possibilities."

How would this work? Imagine that it's a cold

winter day. The snow starts floating down, a wind kicks up and you go to your thermostat to kick up the heat. In Google's world, that action could be met with an advertisement on your thermostat for a new wool sweater.

Google said in its SEC filing that this plan to advertise in places beyond the desktop and cellphones came about partly because the company expects people to be using several different kinds of Google services and products in the near future.

If that is the case, which it probably is, the company said its advertising would be able to follow customers between those experiences.

Google hopes to offer advertisers a new feature called "Enhanced Campaigns," which are ad-

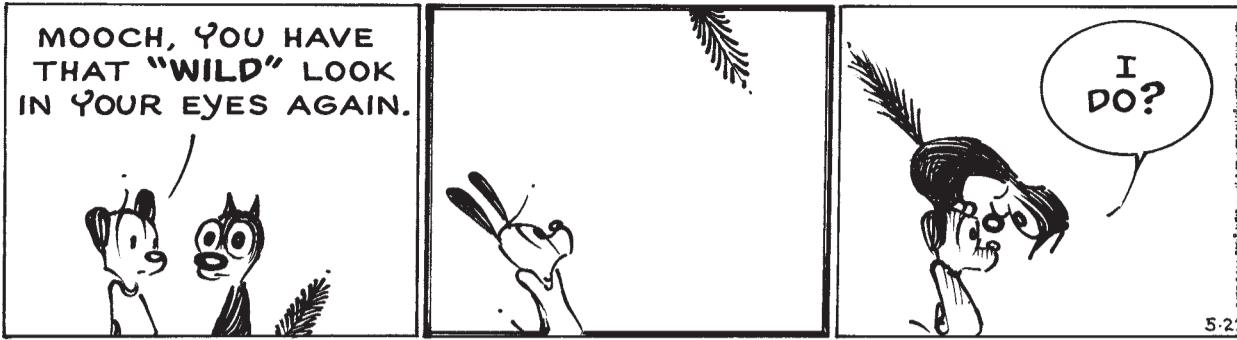
vertisements that can be aimed at people across several kinds of devices or experiences, including cellphones, cars or thermostats.

"Enhanced Campaigns allows our advertisers to write one ad campaign, which we serve dynamically to the right user at the right time on whatever device makes the most sense," Google wrote in the filing.

"Because users will increasingly view ads and make purchase decisions on and across multiple devices, our view of revenue is similarly device-agnostic."

But Tony Fadell, the founder of Nest, the thermostat company that was acquired by Google, cited a Google statement on Twitter noting that new advertisements would not be included in the specific Nest thermostat. □

Mutts



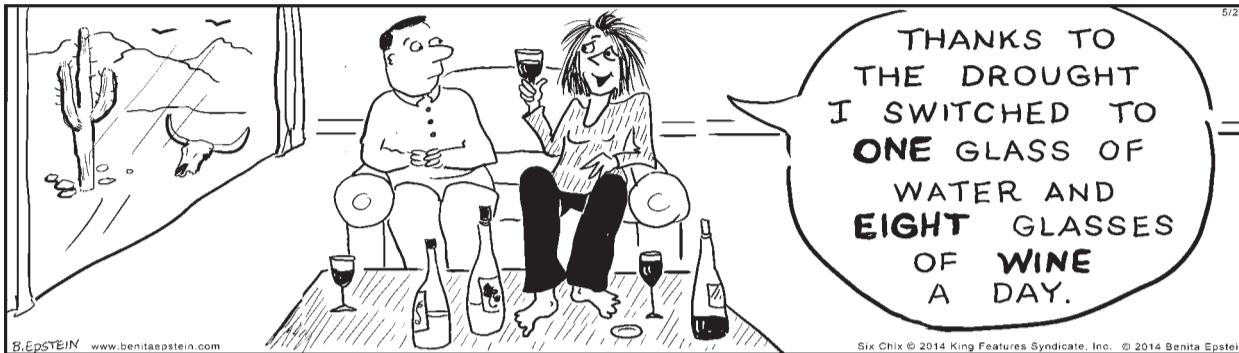
Conceptis Sudoku

3	8	2						
	9				1		5	
4		6			9		8	
1			3	8	7			
			4			6		
	6			3		2		
9	8			6				
		6	9	1				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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6 Chix



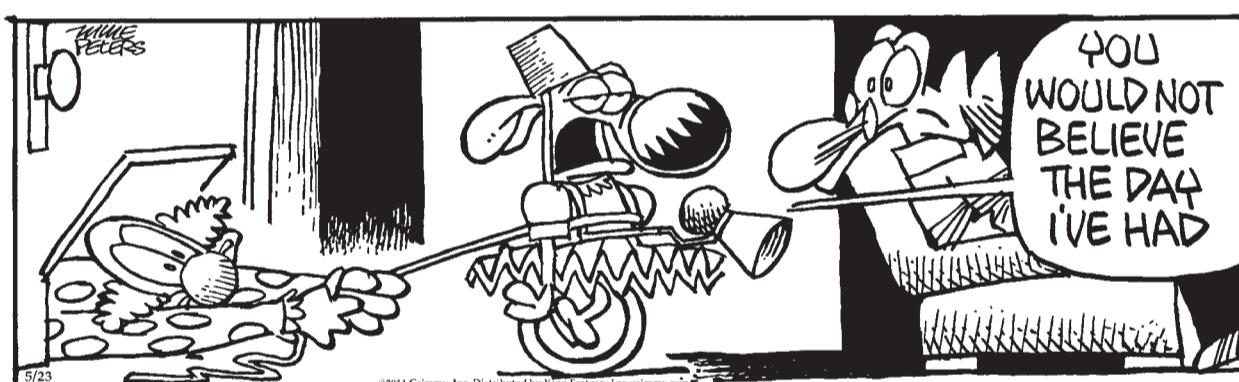
Blondie



Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	8	2	6	3	4	9	7	5
4	7	9	2	8	5	3	1	6
3	6	5	9	7	1	2	4	8
5	4	7	1	9	3	6	8	2
9	3	6	7	2	8	1	5	4
2	1	8	5	4	6	7	3	9
8	2	3	4	1	9	5	6	7
6	9	4	3	5	7	8	2	1
7	5	1	8	6	2	4	9	3

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



ACROSS
 1 More pleasant
 6 Reach across
 10 Houston and Donaldson
 14 Got up
 15 Give up, as land
 16 Clippety—
 17 Explorer _ de León
 18 Perched upon
 19 Vex
 20 Running shoes
 22 Stir from sleep
 24 Stack
 25 Pokiest
 26 Go skyward
 29 Salesman's pitch
 30 Wet sticky stuff
 31 GEICO spokesman
 33 Chairs & pews
 37 Smell
 39 Laughs loudly
 41 Challenge
 42 Powerful winds
 44 Say
 46 Chop down
 47 Pigs and hogs
 49 Ribs
 51 Widespread
 54 Small sled
 55 Blockheads
 56 Divide
 60 Huck _; Mark Twain hero
 61 Resound
 63 Leg bone
 64 Golfing pegs
 65 Reddish horse
 66 "Andersen's Fairy _"
 67 Certain
 68 Heavy book
 69 Open-eyed

DOWN
 1 Short sleeps
 2 Clothes-pressing device
 3 Ice cream scoop holder
 4 Get away
 5 Stinky
 6 Frighten

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/23/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	P	T	O	G	L	E	S	D	O	C	K
A	W	A	Y		G	R	O	V	E	A	X	L
G	E	N	E	R	I	V	E	T	M	E	A	N
S	T	A	T	M	E	N	T	A	N	S		
R	O	S	Y		L	B	S					
P	L	A	N	T	S	F	R	E	A	K	I	H
H	I	D	E	S	H	E	A	R	D	R	U	E
A	V	I	D	H	U	M	P	S	A	G	S	A
S	E	E	B	O	G	O	F	A	T	F	A	L
E	D	C	O	C	A	E	T	O	M	I	S	R
A	R	C	F	I	S	H	I	S	R	E		
W	A	R	D	A	S	S	I	S	T			
I	C	E	D	K	I	L	L	S	Y	O	R	E
T	H	A	I	E	L	A	T	E	S	A	U	L
H	Y	P	E	S	O	P	H	S	H	E		

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40 Arrange
 43 Hit flies
 45 Sailboat race
 48 Flier stuck in the newspaper
 50 Antenna
 51 Fissures; cracks
 52 Bye, Pierre!"

53 Clementine's dad, for one
 54 Sierra __; African nation
 56 Artificial; phony
 57 Up to the task
 58 Bleachers level
 59 __ Anglia, UK
 62 Pigeon's sound

Gasoline prices have familiar look as summer nears

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of gasoline looks familiar this Memorial Day. For the third year in a row, the national average will be within a penny or two of \$3.64 per gallon.

Stability wasn't always the norm. Between 2003 and 2008 average retail gasoline prices more than doubled, reaching an all-time high of \$4.11 per gallon in 2008. Prices then collapsed as the U.S. plunged into recession. But after a two-year run-up between 2009 and 2011, the price of gasoline has remained in a range of roughly \$3.25 to \$3.75 per gallon.

Drivers can handle that, according to AAA, and are ready to head out for Memorial Day driving trips in the highest numbers since 2005. "It is unlikely that gas prices will have a significant effect on travel plans compared to a year ago," AAA wrote in its annual Memorial Day forecast.

Steady gasoline prices are largely the result of relatively steady crude oil prices, even though there has been a long list of global supply disruptions and political turmoil that typically would push the price of oil higher.

Sanctions have sharply cut output from Iran, once the world's third largest oil exporter. Libya went through civil war, and labor and political disruptions continue to limit its exports. Venezuela's oil output has been steadily declining for a decade. Most recently, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is raising concerns that sanctions will impact production or exports from Russia, the world's second largest exporter after Saudi Arabia. But rising crude output in countries such as the U.S., Canada and Brazil have offset the declining supply elsewhere, helping to keep prices steady.

Approaching this Memorial Day, the national average is \$3.65 per gallon, according to AAA, OPIS and Wright Express. Last year on the holiday it was \$3.63 per gallon. In 2012 it was \$3.64.



Katie Spillane, of Brookline, Mass., fills her car with fuel at a gas station, in Brookline. If the price of gasoline looks familiar this Memorial Day that's because it is. For the third year in a row, the national average will be within a few pennies of \$3.64 per gallon.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

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Painful and rapid spread of new virus in Caribbean

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL, Dominican Republic (AP)

They suffer searing headaches, a burning fever and so much pain in their joints they can barely walk or use their hands. It's like having a terrible flu combined with an abrupt case of arthritis. Hospitals and clinics throughout the Caribbean are seeing thousands of people with the same symptoms, victims of a virus with a long and unfamiliar name that has been spread rapidly by mosquitoes across the islands after the first locally transmitted case was confirmed in December.

"You feel it in your bones, your fingers and your hands. It's like everything is coming apart," said 34-year-old Sahira Francisco as she and her daughter waited for treatment at a hospital in San Cristobal, a town in the southern Dominican Republic that has seen a surge of the cases in recent days.

The virus is chikungunya, derived from an African word that loosely translates as "contorted with pain." People encountering it in the Caribbean for the first time say the description is fitting. While the virus is rarely fatal it is extremely debilitating.

"It is terrible, I have never in my life gotten such an illness," said Maria Norde, a 66-year-old woman confined to bed at her home

on the lush eastern Caribbean island of Dominica. "All my joints are in pain."

Outbreaks of the virus have long made people miserable in Africa and Asia. But it is new to the Caribbean, with the first locally transmitted case documented in December in French St. Martin, likely brought in by an infected air traveler. Health officials are now working feverishly to educate the public about the illness, knock down the mosquito population, and deal with an onslaught of cases.

Authorities are attempting to control mosquitoes throughout the Caribbean, from dense urban neighborhoods to beach resorts. There have been no confirmed cases of local transmission of chikungunya on the U.S. mainland, but experts say the high number of travelers to the region means that could change as early as this summer.

So far, there are no signs the virus is keeping visitors away though some Caribbean officials warn it might if it is not controlled. "We need to come together and deal with this disease," said Dominica Tourism Minister Ian Douglas.

One thing is certain: The virus has found fertile ground in the Caribbean. The Pan American Health Organization reports more than 55,000 suspected and confirmed cases since December throughout the islands.



In this May 15, 2014 photo, five-year-old Karla Sepulveda, who suffers chikungunya fever symptoms, waits with her grandmother for treatment in the pediatric area of a public hospital in the coastal town of Boca Chica, Dominican Republic.

Associated Press

It has also reached French Guiana, the first confirmed transmission on the South American mainland.

The Pan American Health Organization says seven people in the Caribbean with chikungunya have died during the outbreak but they had underlying health issues that likely contributed to their death.

"It's building up like a snowball because of the constant movement of people," said Jacqueline Medina, a specialist at the Instituto Technologico university in the Dominican Republic, where some hospitals report more than 100 new cases per day.

Chikungunya was identified in Africa in 1953 and is found throughout the tropics of the Eastern Hemisphere. It is spread by two species of mosquitoes, ae-

des aegypti and aedes albopictus. It's also a traveler-borne virus under the right circumstances.

It can spread to a new area if someone has it circulating in their system during a relatively short period of time, roughly 2-3 days before the onset of symptoms to 5 days after, and then arrives to an area with the right kind of mosquitoes.

For years, there have been sporadic cases of travelers diagnosed with chikungunya but without local transmission. In 2007, there was an outbreak in northern Italy, so health authorities figured it was just a matter of time before it spread to the Western Hemisphere, said Dr. Roger Nasci, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"With the increase in travelers the likelihood that some-

thing like this would happen goes up and eventually it did," said Nasci, chief of a CDC branch that tracks insect-borne diseases.

The two species of mosquitoes that spread chikungunya are found in the southern and eastern United States and the first local transmissions could occur this summer given the large number of U.S. travelers to the Caribbean, Nasci said. Already, the Florida Department of Health has reported at least four imported cases from travelers to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

"What we're seeing now is an increase in the number of infected travelers coming from the Caribbean, which is expected because there's a lot of U.S. travel, a lot of vacation travel, a lot of work travel," he said.

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This June 28, 1977 file photo shows gay activist and political leader Harvey Milk in his camera store in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Andrew Lippa's Harvey Milk concert coming to NYC

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A concert piece about Harvey Milk by Tony Award nominee Andrew Lippa that made its world premiere last summer in San Francisco is coming to New York, and it is bringing Kristin Chenoweth along with it.

Producers said Thursday that "I Am Harvey Milk" will have its New York premiere Oct. 6 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall as part of a one-night-only benefit to help provide arts education for at-risk youth. The director will be Noah Himmelstein.

Lippa, who wrote the music and lyrics for Broadway's "The Addams Family" and "Big Fish," will play Milk in the work, which is part choral and part theater. He and Chenoweth will be backed by the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the 120-member All Star Broadway Men's Chorus. Tickets start at \$40, with premium seats starting at \$500. Money raised will go to create the Harvey Milk Arts Fund at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, the nation's largest and oldest LGBT youth services organization.

Milk became one of

the first openly gay men elected to public office in the United States when he won a seat on the board of supervisors in 1977, inspiring a generation of activists with his uncompromising call for gays to come out.

He was assassinated at City Hall, along with Mayor George Moscone, more than a year later. His life became the subject of the 2008 Oscar-winning film "Milk." Thursday celebrates his birthday and the United States Postal Service is launching a Harvey Milk commemorative stamp.

Lippa's 12-movement work begins when Milk is 11 years old and then offers a song for each month in his tenure on the board of supervisors. The work is non-chronological and impressionistic, even including a song sung from the point of view of the bullet that killed Milk. Chenoweth, whose TV credits include "The West Wing," "The Good Wife" and "Pushing Daisies," was last on Broadway in the 2010 revival of "Promises, Promises." She is due to return to Broadway early next year in the stylish screwball musical "On the Twentieth Century." □

Moroccan film follows the path of suicide bombers



This image released by Kino Lorber, Inc. shows Said El Alami, left, and Achraf Afir in a scene from "Horses of God." The film, directed by Nabil Ayouch, follows the path of four Moroccan men from the Sidi Moumen slum as they become suicide bombers.

Associated Press

PAUL SCHEMME
Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — There's a moment in the Moroccan film "Horses of God" when the protagonist and a friend successfully repair an old moped and cruise around the dusty alleys of the desperately poor shantytown and experience a fleeting moment of freedom.

Otherwise the lives of the two young men have been dominated by the claustrophobia of their hovels outside Casablanca and the struggle to earn money in a community awash with drugs, prostitution and violence. Soon afterward they are seduced by the dangerously simple message of extremist Islam that turns them into suicide bombers.

On May 16, 2003, 12 young men — all around the age of 20 and from the Sidi Moumen slum — blew themselves up in an Italian restaurant, a Spanish restaurant, a luxury hotel, a club for the local Jewish population and a Jewish cemetery, killing 33 people.

The string of blasts that took place over five minutes shocked Morocco, which until then had been

far from the headlines in the war on terror.

In the immediate aftermath, director Nabil Ayouch shot a documentary on the victims, but it was only much later that he realized there was an entire other side to the story.

"It took me years to understand that in this story the victims are on both sides, because the young boys that are just 20 years old and brainwashed and sent to be killed and to kill innocent people, are also victims," he told The Associated Press as the film was released in the U.S. "In this film I wanted to show the source of the violence — that violence doesn't come from the sky."

Horses of God will screen for the next two weeks in New York City before appearing at theaters across the country, including major cities like Miami, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Francisco over the summer.

The fact that the film is finally appearing in the United States is due in large part to the efforts of "Silence of the Lambs" director Jonathan Demme, who saw it on its Moroccan premier at the Marrakech Film Festival in 2012 and later

helped Ayouch find a U.S. distributor.

Demme said aside from being a beautiful film, people in the United States and elsewhere need to see it for its portrayal of how someone could do something as unspeakable as a terrorist attack.

"I think there is an impulse when confronted with the subject of suicide bombers to simply go, 'those people are insane, those people are fanatical,' and I think there is very little movement to trying to truly understand who are these people that blow themselves up along with many others," he told the AP.

The film is remarkable for its air of authentic grittiness — it was filmed in a shantytown not far from the one where the Casablanca bombers grew up. Ayouch also used non-professionals, speaking authentic Moroccan Arabic street slang.

For most of the world, Morocco is a rich panorama of Atlantic beaches, colorful handicrafts and stunning mountains, but for millions of its inhabitants — especially those living around the commercial capital of Casablanca — it is these slums. □

Carlos Santana wants to save the world with music

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Try to speak with Carlos Santana about his new album and he'll want to talk about another topic: changing the world.

The veteran musician says he is planning a concert aimed at encouraging and motivating the development of young black and Latino men in the wake of Trayvon Martin's death and Donald Sterling's racist comments. He wants to hold the event next year in Florida and is working with Harry Belafonte.

"I'm not show biz and entertainment, I'm an activist," he said. "I'm a person who with passion believes that we can change the world, we can transform hate and fear forever with the right songs and the right timing."

Santana's latest album, "Corazon," debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last week. It features Juanes, Gloria Estefan and Miguel, and Santana said it wasn't hard finding "Cinderella or Cinderella" to guest on the songs, which he calls "glass slippers."

"We said, 'Hey man, this is going to be great at the Latin Grammys. We got to make an impact there,'" he recalled. "And I go, 'Latin Grammys, why stop there? Why don't we go



This April 25, 2014 file photo shows Carlos Santana performing during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans. Santana's latest album, "Corazon," debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last week.

Associated Press

to the World Cup?' Well guess what, we're closing the World Cup with brother Wyclef (Jean)!"

In an interview with The Associated Press, Santana, 66, had advice for Jay Z, and talked about his tour with Rod Stewart, which kicks off Friday in Albany, New York.

AP: How does it feel to release another album?

Santana: I feel really, really honored to gain people's trust. People opened their hearts and their wallets. ... It allows me to do more things with my brother Harry Belafonte and (activist) Dolores Huerta. ... And so we want to have a concert and bring Jamie Foxx

and different kinds of artists, musicians of all colors and utilize this attention and this energy. ... Obviously (with) what happened with Donald Sterling and what's happening with people throwing bananas at soccer stadiums, you know, we have a lot to heal.

AP: Who else do you want to invite to the concert?

Santana: I'd like to bring (NBA Hall of Famer) Dr. J (Julius Erving) and (former NBA player and mayor of Sacramento) Kevin Johnson to San Quentin and talk to the brothers, black and brown, broadcast it in all the prisons and call the event 'You Cannot Break My Spirit.'

AP: How did your tour with Rod Stewart come about?

Santana: I can say it the way Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock would say it, 'Both of us love to play spiritual music to touch all hearts.'

That's one thing. The rascal in me ... says, 'We both love black music. We like to play black music for white people.'

AP: There are a number of collaborative tours this summer, from Kiss and Def Leppard to Beyoncé and Jay Z. Who would you like to see hit the road together?

Santana: I'd like to see Metallica and Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock to broaden the wings. Metallica did a thing with a symphony, so they're capable, of course, of playing without volume or with volume. I just like to expand popularity with genius. ... I invite brothers like Jay Z who have the money to start bringing the African brothers back to the United States.

Since 9/11, if your name is Idrissa Diop or if you have a Muslim name, they won't let you in. But they let the Irish people in and they let the Canadian people in and people from Australia.

Man, how come you don't let the African people come in? ... If I had the money and the means that Jay Z has, I would bring African musicians. ... I'm going to invite them. We're going to create something like this in Las Vegas where we can co-headline, because these brothers need to be taken to schools in America so the brothers (here) can learn how to play the drums again. That's the thing I have in common with Africa — I understand the drum ... it's in my DNA.

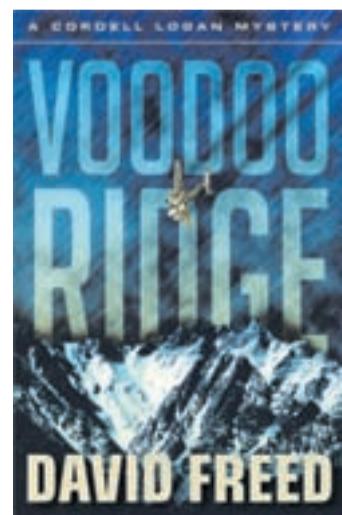
Review: 'Voodoo Ridge' has tension-packed plot

BRUCE DESILVA
Associated Press

For once, Cordell Logan, ex-military assassin turned flight instructor, is happy. After years of trying, he finally has reconciled with his beautiful ex-wife Savannah, and together they are flying to Lake Tahoe to tie the knot.

But as Logan pilots his plane over the spectacular Sierra Nevada, he spots something metal protruding from a snowbank in a remote mountain canyon. It turns out to be the wreckage of a small plane that disappeared during a snowstorm nearly 60 years ago.

When Logan alerts lo-



This book cover image released by The Permanent Press shows "Voodoo Ridge," by David Freed.

Associated Press

cal authorities, and then guides them overland to the spot, they discover that someone has only recently beaten them to it and made off with the plane's mysterious cargo.

As he continues to work with authorities to figure out what was stolen, and who stole it, Savannah is kidnapped.

Logan soon finds himself faced with an impossible choice: He can either save Savannah or stop the plane's potentially lethal cargo from falling into the hands of terrorists. There's little chance he will be able to do both.

The first two novels in Freed's

Cordell Logan series were peppered with humor as we watched the protagonist struggle to reconcile his propensity for violence with his newfound Buddhist philosophy. The threat to Savannah leaves less room for humor in "Voodoo Ridge," although Logan's encounters with his fiercely independent cat and his quirky landlady, Mrs. Schmulowitz, provide occasional moments of comic relief.

But the tension-packed plot and the fine prose, including well-drawn characters and vivid portraits of the natural landscape, are just what fans have come to expect from this author.

The Big Debate



DAVID BROOKS

© 2014 New York Times

It's now clear that the end of the Soviet Union heralded an era of democratic complacency. Without a rival system to test them, democratic governments have decayed across the globe. In the United States, Washington is polarized, stagnant and dysfunctional; a pathetic 26 percent of Americans trust their government to do the right thing. In Europe, elected officials have grown remote from voters, responding poorly to the euro crisis and contributing to massive unemployment.

According to measures by Freedom House, freedom has been in retreat around the world for the past eight years. New democracies like South Africa are decaying; the number of nations that the Bertelsmann Foundation now classifies as "defective democracies" (rigged elections and so on) has risen to 52. As John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge write in their book, "The Fourth Revolution," "So far the 21st century has been a rotten one for the Western model." The events of the past several years have exposed democracy's structural flaws. Democracies tend to have a tough time with long-range planning. Voters tend to want more government services than they are willing to pay for. The system of checks and balances can slide into paralysis, as more interest groups acquire veto power over legislation.

Across the Western world, people are disgusted with their governments. There is a widening gap between the pace of social and economic change, and the pace of government change. In Britain, for example, productivity in the private service sector increased by 14 percent between 1999 and 2013, while productivity in the government sector fell by 1 percent between 1999 and 2010. These trends have sparked a sprawling debate in the small policy journals: Is democracy in long-run decline?

A new charismatic rival is gaining strength: the Guardian State. In their book, Micklethwait and Wooldridge do an outstanding job of describing Asia's modernizing autocracies. In some ways, these governments look more progressive than the Western model; in some ways, more conservative.

In places like Singapore and China, the best students are ruthlessly culled for government service. The technocratic elites play a bigger role in designing economic life. The safety net is smaller and less forgiving. In

Singapore, 90 percent of what you get out of the key pension is what you put in. Work is rewarded. People are expected to look after their own.

These Guardian States have some disadvantages compared with Western democracies. They are more corrupt. Because the systems are top-down, local government tends to be worse. But they have advantages. They are better at long-range thinking and can move fast because they limit democratic feedback and don't face NIMBY-style impediments. Most important, they are more innovative than Western democracies right now. If you wanted to find a model for your national schools, would you go to South Korea or America? If you wanted a model for your pension system, would you go to Singapore or the U.S.?

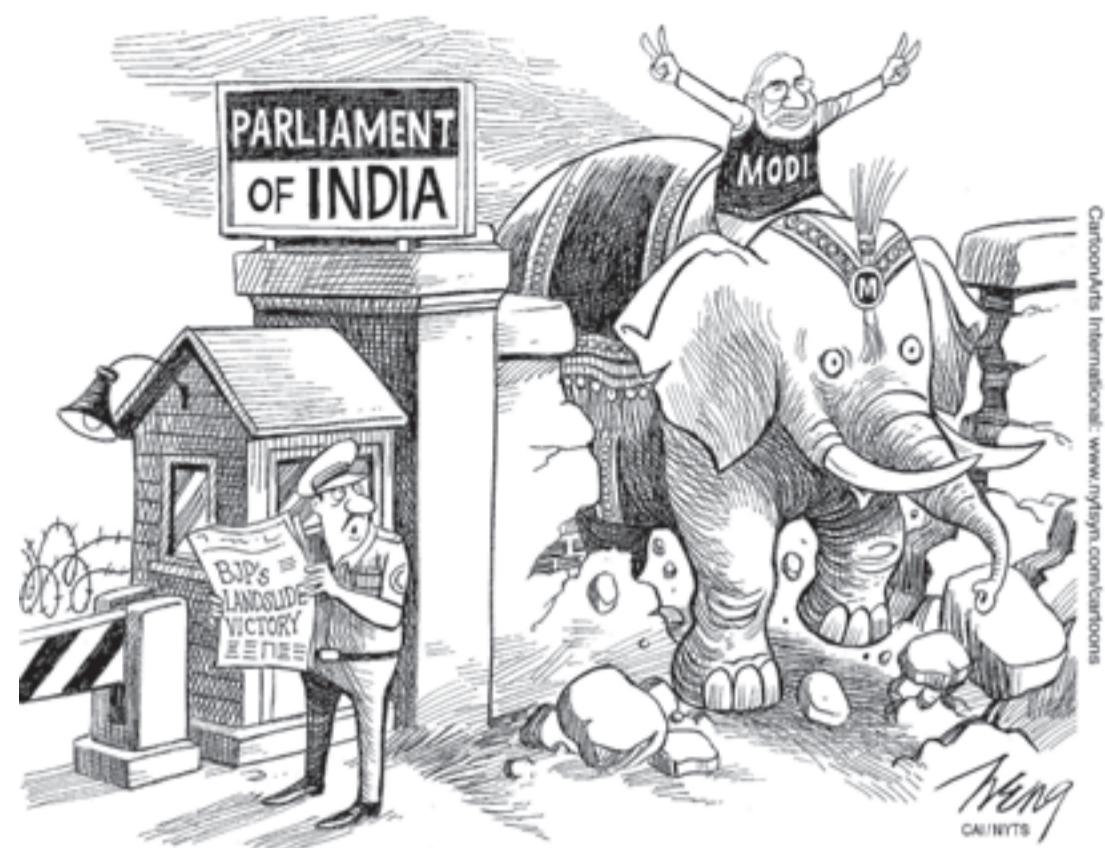
"These are not hard questions to answer," Micklethwait and Wooldridge write, "and they do not reflect well on the West." So how should Western democracies respond to this competition? What's needed is not so much a vision of the proper role for the state as a strategy to make democracy dynamic again.

The answer is to use Lee Kuan Yew means to achieve Jeffersonian ends - to become less democratic at the national level in order to become more democratic at the local level. At the national level, U.S. politics has become neurotically democratic. Politicians are campaigning all the time and can scarcely think beyond the news cycle. Legislators are terrified of offending this or that industry lobby, activist group or donor faction. Unrepresentative groups have disproportionate power in primary elections.

The quickest way around all this is to use elite Simpson-Bowles-type commissions to push populist reforms. The process of change would be unapologetically elitist. Gather small groups of the great and the good together to hammer out bipartisan reforms - on immigration, entitlement reform, a social mobility agenda, etc. - and then rally establishment opinion to browbeat the plans through. But the substance would be anything but elitist. Democracy's great advantage over autocratic states is that information and change flow more freely from the bottom up. Those with local knowledge have more responsibility. If the Guardian State's big advantage is speed at the top, democracy's

is speed at the bottom. So, obviously, the elite commissions should push proposals that magnify that advantage: which push control over poverty programs to local charities; which push educational diversity through charter schools; which introduce more market mechanisms into public provision of, say, health care, to spread power to consumers.

Democracy is always messy, but, historically, it's thrived because it has been more flexible than its rivals. In 1787, democracy's champions innovated faster. Is that still true? □



CartoonArts International: www.nytimes.com/cartoons

'Tears of a Rickshaw Driver'



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

© 2014 New York Times

As long as I live, I'll never forget the rickshaw driver, tears streaming down his cheeks, rushing a gravely injured student to a hospital - and away from the soldiers who had just gunned him down. That rickshaw driver was a brave man, a better man than I, and he taught me an indelible lesson. We were on the Avenue of Eternal Peace in Beijing, beside Tiananmen Square, on the night of June 3, 1989, and the Chinese army was crushing the student democracy movement that convulsed China that spring 25 years ago.

Millions of protesters filled the streets in hundreds of cities around China from mid-April through early June that year, demanding free speech, democracy and an end to corruption. I was living in China then as the Beijing bureau chief for The New York Times, and it was an unforgettable - and, initially, inspiring - tapestry of valor and yearning. Protesters acknowledged that their lives were improving dramatically, but they said that it was not enough. They insisted that they wanted not just rice, but also rights.

To this day, it is the most polite protest movement I've ever covered. After shoving their way through police lines, student marchers would pause, turn around, and chant, "Thank you,

police!" Some students were assigned to pick up any shoes lost in the commotion and return them to the students or police officers who had lost them.

The student protesters took over central Beijing for weeks. Then, on the night of June 3, the army invaded Beijing from several directions as if it were a foreign army, shooting at everything that moved. Miles from Tiananmen Square, the teenage brother of a friend was shot dead by soldiers as he simply bicycled to work. As the invasion began, I jumped on my bike and raced to Tiananmen Square, where throngs of citizens had come out on the streets to try to protect the student protesters. They were shot. The most heroic people on that terrible night and into the morning of June 4 were the rickshaw drivers, driving three-wheel bicycle carts used to haul goods around the city. With each pause in the shooting, these rickshaw drivers would pedal out toward the troops and pick up the bodies of the students who had been killed or injured.

The soldiers were unforgiving, shooting even at ambulances trying to pick up bodies. But those rickshaw men were undeterred.

Their bravery particularly resonated because I had heard so often that spring, from foreigners and Chinese officials alike, that China was unready for democracy, that its people weren't sufficiently educated or sophisticated. And it's true that democracy tends to find firmer root in educated, middle-class societies. Yet I vividly remember that one rickshaw driver, a burly man in a T-shirt who perhaps had never graduated from high school. Yet what courage! I found myself holding my breath, wondering if he would be shot, as he drove out to pick up a body. He placed the young man on his cart and pedaled for his life back toward

us. Tears were streaming down his cheeks.

He saw me, the foreigner, and swerved to drive slowly by me so that I could bear witness to what the government had done. It was a terrifying night, and I can't remember just what his words were, but it was something to the effect that I should tell the world what was happening.

Sure, he couldn't have offered a robust definition of democracy. But he was risking his life for it. A quarter-century has passed. The bullet holes in the buildings along the Avenue of Eternal Peace have been patched, and history similarly sanitized. I was staggered when a Chinese university student looked puzzled when I mentioned the June 4 Massacre; it turned out that she had never heard of it.

It's also true that China has progressed enormously. Incomes have soared, housing has improved and the latest figures (which should be taken with a grain of salt) suggest that the rate of death from pregnancy and childbirth is lower in China than in the United States.

That rickshaw driver may not have the vote, but his children may well attend university. The progress is unarguable. Yet human dignity demands not just rice, but also rights.

The great Chinese writer Lu Xun once wrote, about an earlier massacre: "Lies written in ink cannot disguise facts written in blood."

As China prospers and builds an educated middle class, demands for participation will grow. I've covered democracy movements around the world, from Poland to South Korea, and I'm confident that someday, at Tiananmen Square, I'll be able to pay my respects at a memorial to those men and women killed that night. I'm hoping the memorial will take the form of a statue of a rickshaw driver. □

No Place Like Home: Conquering the Disorganized Closet

BOB TEDESCHI

© 2014 New York Times

On the household to-do list my wife and I update whenever we're orbiting Neptune in our hovercraft, "organize closets" is right up there with "hand-tune our unused piano" and "sort DVD collection by Rotten Tomato rating." But when we recently had friends over for dinner and

they don't have enough closet space or they think they need a new closet system, when the fact is they just need to organize it better," said Izsak, who is immediate past president of the National Association of Professional Organizers. If one or two closets are especially bad, Murphy said, don't start with them. You may discover there is no-

This step was helpful with our hall closet, but just to be sure, I got a second opinion from my wife about the rarely used items. Then I pulled out everything and created three piles: one for relocation, one for donation and one for the keepers. It was amazing how small that keeper pile was. Murphy said her more-

yet strong enough to hold coats you would put on fat plastic hangers.

"With these, you can get three garments into a space where you used to have just one," he said. Another benefit, Murphy noted, is that "if all you do is change your hangers so they all match, you'd think your closet is more organized."

ing garments or towels. Back-of-the-door racks are a good choice for shoes, but only if you can close the door with the rack filled. For that reason, the PerfectCurve flip-flop rack (\$10) found a place in our hall closet rather than the clothes closet.

Our hall closet was now more spacious, but the two-shelf setup at the top was a stretch for my family. And now that we've put away our cold-weather jackets and unused coats, the closet had a lot of wasted space at knee level. So as much as I wanted to avoid installing a closet system, it seemed the only alternative. My panelists were unanimously enthusiastic about do-it-yourself closet organization systems - in particular, the Elfa system from the Container Store. These systems, they told me, are easy to install and equally easy to adjust according to seasonal needs.

That all sounded great, except that I live in one of the roughly 25 states without a Container Store. For similarly disenfranchised people, my experts said, the company's website offers useful tools for customizing a system. I tried it and I agree. I browsed many samples online and then called a Container Store saleswoman with the measurements of my closet and a rough inventory of items we want to keep there, and she guided me to a \$550 Elfa system in the most inexpensive finish.

(My closet is 91 by 23 by 53 inches, and I chose wire-mesh components without wood-veneer fronts. The more expensive Elfa systems for walk-in closets, by contrast, cost around \$3,000.)

My system includes slide-out shelves from the floor to hip level for shoes and a single shelf up top. The hanger bar sits 12 inches higher than my old one, so there's far more space beneath the jackets now, and the shelves can be repositioned if we need more space for big coats in the winter. □



A collection of items that can help with avoiding clutter, in New York, May 20, 2014. While a closet-organization system is worth considering and easy to install, you can make major progress and spend far less with small changes that make vast improvements.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

I couldn't fit their coats into the entry hall closet, I figured I had to do something. This particular closet was stuffed with 26 coats, 28 pairs of shoes, a dozen hats and multiple gloves, two old lamps and a pair of empty coat racks we keep there for irony.

My task: find a way to make this closet useful without resorting to a built-in organization system that might cost more than \$1,000. For help, I called on three people with personal-organization consultancies: Laura Leist, of Eliminate Chaos, in Seattle; Barry Izsak, of Arranging It All, in Austin, Texas; and Ashley Murphy, of Neat Method, based in San Francisco.

While a closet-organization system is worth considering and easy to install, they said, you can spend far less and still make vast improvements.

"A lot of times, people think

where else to put the items you've jammed into the problem area, or you may simply trade one problem closet for another. Instead, take a close look at less cluttered or less important closets or storage areas. If your hall closet contains sports equipment or old coats (or, perhaps, old lamps), carve out space elsewhere for this stuff so you can create useful real estate where you need it most. Of course, since I pay little attention to what my family members are wearing as they sprint out the door, it was hard to know which pieces of clothing were in daily use. Izsak suggested turning all the hangers backward, so the open ends faced the door, and waiting a week or two. Then check which ones haven't been moved, he said, and you'll know what wasn't used; put those items aside to discard.

affluent clients often consign valuable items, while others give their little-used items to a local charity. City dwellers have the option of curbside giveaways, and those in the suburbs can post items free on Craigslist and let the recipients come and get them or call one of the many charitable organizations that will pick up donations.

The next step is finding somewhere else to put the things you want to keep. We were in trouble on this front, since the other closets in our house were packed, too. My advisers suggested buying some accessories and hardware for our closets.

The simplest way to free up space, Izsak said, is with skinny hangers - and by that, he didn't mean the old-school wire ones. Products like Huggable hangers (\$10 for set of 10) are roughly a quarter of an inch thick

Big-box retailers like the Container Store brim with products that will help you make better use of the space you have. Izsak recommended a closet rod like the Dublet from Umbra (\$20), which gives you two tiers for hanging.

A double-tiered hanging rod allows you to consolidate clothes, but the downside, Murphy said, is that longer garments may drag on the floor. I tried one on a standard-height closet rod (the two-tiered rod hangs from the standard rod, with the second one hanging as much as 28 inches lower), and while my 12-year-old son's shirts didn't hit the floor, mine did.

My advisers also suggested looking into storage items that use the surface of the closet door. One option is the Hinge-It Clutter Buster (\$30), which attaches to the door hinges and includes four rods for hang-